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REVIEWS

The Statesman. By Henry Taylor, Esq., Author of 'Philip Van Artevelde.' Longman & Co.

THIS, though a very small, is a remarkable book; remarkable, not for the talent it exhibits, for this nowhere rises above mediocrity; but for the nature of the subject, and the manner in which that subject is treated. In reality, with whatever feeling it may be received by those for whose benefit it is intended, it is openly written for the use of statesmen. As, however, sermons have been composed for the information of doctors in divinity, why should not lessons in the art of government be composed for that of men placed at the helm of public affairs? If the former can be supposed to be deficient in the knowledge required by their profession, we do not see, any more than Mr. Taylor, why, a similar hypothesis may not embrace the latter: and, indeed, every one must confess that, in this country, the administration of government, whether by Tories, Whigs, or Radicals, has been conducted upon anything rather than recognized principles. Since the reign of James I., science, whether economical or political, has been left out of the question; and within the last century, other qualifications formerly thought requisite, such as knowledge of international law, of history, of foreign and domestic law, of foreign and domestic policy, of human nature, nay, even of men and things on a moderately enlarged scale, have been voted as antiquated, and for that reason dispensed with. It might indeed be thought that a minister, the channel through which merit, legal, theological, literary, or philosophical, is to be rewarded, ought to have some general acquaintance at least with such matters; but our forefathers, and indeed ourselves, have decided otherwise. The only, or at least the best qualifications for the post, have been held to be aristocratic connexions, royal favour, and borough influence. To have doubted the efficacy of such qualifications would, not long since, have subjected the daring septic to the charge of disaffection; and even now, there exists, in the great mass of what is called "good society," an impression that there can be no honesty without hereditary riches, no wisdom without birth, no success without adventitious station. The proposition, that nature and fortune have always combined their efforts in favour of our aristocracy, has, in practice at least, been undisputed. Happy England! where statesmen are as plentiful as baronial mansions.

Mr. Taylor begins his course of instruction, as he ought to begin it, with "the education of a youth destined for a civil career." The very title of the chapter will prove that he is not an aristocrat, and that he does not admit the justice of the generally received impression. "What education," will be the indignant exclamation, "does the fellow mean? Admitting, for the sake of argument, the vulgar notion that we have need of any discipline whatever, have we not all been at school or college?" Certainly, if our author's views were carried into effect, there would be a sad change in their position. They are to be prepared for political life, by a severe course of study; by "a general knowledge of the laws of the land, and of international law, of foreign systems of jurisprudence, and especially a knowledge of the prominent defects of the system at home;" by an intimate acquaintance

with "political economy," which Mr. Taylor considers (alarming notion!) as absolutely "indispensable." Further, the aspirant for office must be made not only to peruse, with the utmost attention, the musty records of former times, but the whole mass of parliamentary documents. *Peruse* do we say? Nay, he must analyze, compare, separate, classify, and reason on each subject!

"Let a question be selected which has been inquired into by a committee of either House of Parliament; let the minutes of evidence taken before the committee be laid before the pupil without their report; and let him be required to report upon that evidence himself, exhibiting, 1st, The material facts of the case as drawn from the evidence; 2d, The various views and opinions which have been or might be adopted upon the matter; 3d, The conclusions of his own judgment, with his reasons; 4th, If he concludes for legislation, a draft of the law by which he would execute his purposes; 5th, A draft of the speech with which he would introduce his proposed law to the notice of the legislature. If the inquiry relate to executive matters rather than legislative, as in the case of any investigation made into the propriety of the dismissal of a public servant, his task will be to state the facts, to point out circumstances of extenuation or aggravation, and to deliver his opinion of the conduct and deserts of all parties concerned."

To be serious. All this is specious, but it would be useless. If (which, however, in such a country as this, is not to be expected) a youth must really be educated for public life, general knowledge must be the first proposition; a particular knowledge of our constitution must be the next: employing, as we do, both these terms in their widest acceptation, and surely they may sufficiently occupy the time of any young man,—nay, of any man, from youth to old age. In other respects, the chapter before us is to be censured. Contrary to the opinion of Lord Bacon, our author undervalues *history* as a preparation for the life of a statesman. Now, if we would know what form of government, and what principles of administration, have been tried; which have succeeded, and which have failed; what causes, under similar circumstances, have produced similar results;—if, in short, we would benefit by the lessons of universal experience, whither shall we look but to history? Perhaps Mr. Taylor, like many other men in these enlightened times, regards it as of equal value with an old almanack. He may, however, be assured, that until this branch of knowledge is studied more deeply, more systematically than it has yet been, we may have rulers, but we shall have no statesmen.

The second chapter, 'On the age at which official and parliamentary life should commence,' is open to one objection. Granting, as we readily do, one part of the proposition, that men seldom succeed in the House of Commons who do not enter it before thirty years of age, we wholly dissent from the other, viz. that the sooner the embryo statesman is in public office the better. The mechanical drudgery of such establishments may, indeed, teach patience and regularity, but will it convey enlarged views? will it assist in the generalization of facts? Instead of comprehension, it will inevitably superinduce contracted habits of thinking. No ignorance is so deplorable, no egotism is so contemptible, as that of mere official men. In truth, the greatest men that ever conducted the govern-

ment of this country have, with few exceptions, been strangers to such drudgery until the meridian of life has been past. Far wiser would be the recommendation (we refer to future statesmen, not to men doomed their whole lives to remain "Jacks in office") not to enter an official life until thirty,—until a broad foundation of knowledge has been laid.

Chapter III., 'On the choice and use of Instruments,' and Chap. IV., 'On the getting and keeping of Adherents,' contain some useful hints; but they are pervaded by a character bordering on Machiavelianism. In reality, that celebrated model of statesmen is frequently referred to by our author, and, in some cases, we are sorry to perceive, without reprehension. In reality, the sixteenth chapter, 'On the Ethics of Politics,' might have been written by the Florentine. Admitting, as he does, the necessity of truth as the basis of all private morality, he insinuates the indulgence of a criminal laxity in regard to political morality. For instance, he allows a member of the government to express, in parliament, an assent to measures which he disapproves, not only *in foro conscientie*, but in consultation with his colleagues. However such a one condemn the proposed measure at a meeting of the cabinet, he may, without impeachment of his sincerity, plead for it before the public! In the latter case, he is merely to be considered as an advocate whose duty it is to do the best he can for his clients. He must defend his colleagues—this is an official duty—whatever be his own opinion on the subject of debate; and this necessity being generally understood, he does not violate any "principle of truth," or "his own conscience," in publicly assenting to that which he inwardly condemns. That we may not be accused of exaggerating or of perverting the author's meaning, we give his own words:—

"But if, on the other hand, he advocates what he does not approve with a clear conscience, and stands, *quâ* statesman, in his own apprehension and in that of others, under a well-understood absolution from speaking the truth in particular cases, then there is in reality no more violation of the principle of truth at large than there is of his own conscience. For falsehood ceases to be falsehood when it is understood on all hands that the truth is not expected to be spoken. The criminal at the bar who pleads 'Not guilty' to his indictment, is not charged with lying though his plea be never so untrue. Forensic advocacy is conducted upon a similar understanding."

And on the next page, he continues:—

"In fact, if assent declared to particular measures which he does not approve, be a falsehood on the part of a member of a government introducing those measures, then no government has ever been formed, any one member of which has been other than a liar. It is certain, then, that great discredit is done to the cause of truth, either, on the one hand, by the uniform or general invasion of it by men, all of whom have an eminent position in life, and some a high moral reputation; or, on the other hand, by calling that a principal of truth which they uniformly or generally invade."

In concluding this truly Italian chapter, our author is of opinion, "that the cause of public morality will be best served by moralists permitting to statesmen what statesmen must necessarily take and exercise—a free judgment, namely—though a most responsible one, in the weighing of specific against general evil, and in

the perception of perfect or imperfect analogies, between public and private transactions, in respect of the moral rules by which they are to be governed. The standard of morality to be held forth by moralists to statesmen is sufficiently elevated when it is raised to the level of *practicable virtue*. The substance of the chapter is involved in the maxim, that the end may, in some cases, justify the means—that an action must be judged by the motives alone, and that, where measures are adopted with the view of a specific good as the result, those measures, though alien from the vulgar notions of right, are not to be severely condemned, inasmuch as the motive may justify them. If they fail of the effect designed, viz. the public good, the error is one, not of morality, but of judgment. We dismiss the chapter with mingled feelings of disgust and of detestation.

The chapter, 'Concerning the Conscience of a Statesman,' contains passages scarcely less exceptionable than the preceding. Proceeding from the maxim, that "the conscience of a statesman should be rather a strong conscience than a tender conscience," our moralist illustrates his meaning by the case of a criminal, where the capital sentence "is to be executed or remitted." How is a statesman to advise his sovereign? Common equity would, first of all, enjoin the duty of ascertaining the degree of guilt attached to the culprit, whether this were his first or his repeated attempt, what his general character, and what the peculiar circumstances which led to or accompanied the perpetration of the crime. A Christian philosopher would also inquire, whether the offender could, by possibility, be reclaimed—whether repentance were hopeless—whether, in the event of its probability, he should like to incur the responsibility of sending an unprepared man into the presence of the Great Judge. But such considerations have no influence on our philosopher, who blames humanity as weakness, and who would recommend a conscience so peculiar that it should not blame its possessor for doing wrong so much as for doing nothing. "Keep moving!" is the substance of his doctrine—whether in a good or an evil line, cannot be ascertained, until you know the result, for the result it is that gives the character to an action in the opinion of men.

Again, we have a chapter 'On the Arts of Rising,' which, if not ironically intended, is also in the true Machiavelian spirit. In the first place, you must have a *speaking* acquaintance with a great number of persons, a due proportion of whom should be of "obscure and middle station." In this, there are two advantages: "the discredit of courting the great may be partly escaped; and he who has a speaking acquaintance with a thousand acquaintances will hardly find himself in any circumstances in which he cannot make some use of somebody. Out of the multitude of the obscure, some will emerge to distinction; the relations with this man or that may be drawn closer as circumstances suggest; and acquaintances, which could not be made at particular conjunctures, without imputation of interested motives, may be improved at such moments with much less inconvenience." To be sure, when our aspirant's object is gained—when he has reached a higher level of fortune—he will find the number of his obscure acquaintances more troublesome than useful: but then it is to be assumed, that "he has taken proper care not to lavish himself in wanton intimacies" with such men, however sedulously he may have cultivated "his potential friendships." If, however, he has been so imprudent as to have formed "actual friendship" with the obscure, his best policy will be, "to single out some individual from time to time, in whose behalf he should make some great and well-known exertion as a tribute to friendship. This will enable him to

spare trouble in other instances, and yet avoid being charged, generally, with the pride of a *parvenu*." Again—and here there is solid sense without violation of principle—never ask a *small* favour from a minister, who will have no more trouble in making your fortune, than he would have in complying with some petty request. But—and here again our English feeling must be hurt—you are directed to hold "fast by the skirts of a party"—you can do nothing alone, and, if you forsake your party, by voting with their political opponents, you are to a certainty undone; for in future you will be trusted by neither. *Persevere* in whatever line of politics you have embraced. To be sure, your party will often change their principles; but this need not disconcert you, as you can always have the plea of "*popular assent*" for the change. "For popular assent having become an essential condition of the practicability of measures, an assumption of that assent being attainable to any measure becomes part and lot of the opinion about it; inasmuch as the opinion, if it had not reference to practicability, would be a mere Utopian speculation." If this assent do not exist, still you can plead it, for you are certain to have petitions enough on both sides of a question.

Chapters 22 and 23, 'On the Reform of the Executive,' contain suggestions so excellent, that we recommend them to the perusal of every member of our legislature. They have, also, many severe blows at the present system of our public affairs; and we are glad that one, who is himself in a public office, has had the courage to express it:—

"By evading decisions wherever they can be evaded; by shifting them on other departments or authorities where by any possibility they can be shifted; by giving decisions upon superficial examinations,—categorically, so as not to expose the superficiality in propounding the reasons; by deferring questions till, as Lord Bacon says, 'they resolve of themselves,' by undertaking nothing for the public good which the public voice does not call for; by conciliating loud and energetic individuals at the expense of such public interests as are dumb or do not attract attention; by sacrificing everywhere what is feeble and obscure to what is influential and cognizable: by such means and shifts as these the single functionary granted by the theory may reduce his business within his powers, and perhaps obtain for himself the most valuable of all reputations in this line of life, that of 'a safe man'; and if his business, even thus reduced, strains, as it well may, his powers and his industry to the utmost, then (whatever may be said of the theory) the man may be without reproach—without other reproach at least than that which belongs to men placing themselves in a way to have their understandings abused and debased, their sense of justice corrupted, their public spirit and appreciation of public objects undermined."

Then follow the suggestions for reform—and admirable they are. Would that the whole volume were written in the same spirit, and with the same object—public good!

The same approbation must be extended to a few other chapters, especially that which treats 'On Aids to Legislation to be derived from Executive Experience.' "It is astonishing," said a great minister, "to see with what little sense this world is governed." It is doubly astonishing to see with what pertinacity misgovernment is upheld, when the materials of reformation are in every minister's path, and he has only to stoop for them. The suggestions in this chapter are of the most obvious character, and they are manifestly as efficacious:—

"As an example of the manner in which executive experience might thus be made to tell back upon legislation, let the process be supposed to be adopted for the improvement of the various laws which depend for their execution wholly, or in part,

upon the body of Police as now constituted in London, under the authority of the statute 10 Geo. IV. c. 44. This body consists of—1. Commissioners; 2. Superintendants; 3. Inspectors; 4. Sergeants; 5. Constables. These last, the constables, must necessarily, as they walk the streets, witness from time to time many evils which there is not, though there might properly be, a lawful authority to correct. Let it be a part of their duty to report these forthwith to the sergeants; let the sergeants be required to furnish a monthly selection of such reports, with any remarks they may wish to make upon them, to the inspectors; let the inspectors be required to forward a quarterly digest and commentary to the superintendant; the superintendant to the commissioners; let the commissioners submit annually to the Secretary of State for the Home Department such projects and drafts for the amendment of the law as this filtered experience shall suggest; and, finally, let the bill, which, after due revision, shall be approved by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, be brought into Parliament by the organ of that department in the House of Commons. Let the police magistrates also, who do not exactly fall into this line of police authorities, be required to make periodical reports of defects of law, as illustrated by cases coming before them, and let these reports be dealt with in like manner. Without pretending to such practical knowledge of the metropolitan police as would insure aptitude in the allotment of this or that duty to one or the other grade, the question may yet be asked, whether a process, conducted generally upon the proposed principle, might not be expected to promote the cause of order and innocence in this metropolis?

"But with the narrow limits which opinion, as it exists, assigns to the duties of the executive Government and its servants (to which narrowness of duty the Government and its servants naturally confine themselves), responsibility for defect of law falls nowhere; or if it be held to fall upon the legislature, it is so diffused over that numerous body, as to be of no force or effect. When evil manifests itself, in however cognizable a shape, there is no member of the Government, whether or not he be also a member of the legislature, nor any servant of the public, who does not think that his case for non-interference is complete, so soon as he makes out that the evil is owing to a fault in the law. The question whose fault it is that the law is faulty, is asked of no man, and naturally no man asks it of himself. But that must needs be regarded as an imperfect system of administrative government, which does not lay these faults at the door of some individual functionary, in the numerous cases in which it would be perfectly practicable to do so. Did C observe the evil and report it to B? if not, let him answer for it: did B consider of it, and suggest a remedy to A? if not, let B's neglect be denounced: did A adopt B's suggestion, or devise something better, and go to parliament for a remedial law? if not, let the charge lie against A."

Where we have had so much room for censure, we have taken double pleasure in approving. What can the author have intended in forsaking that right English feeling, sincerity, for Italian duplicity? If may, indeed, be replied, —what, indeed, has already been replied in defence of Machiavelli and Guicciardini,—that his book is a concealed satire—that his purpose is to expose a system of misgovernment. Long after we had opened the present volume, we were, we confess, of the same opinion. There are, however, so many passages in which the author is evidently serious—so many in which he is anxious to guard the reader against a misconception of his meaning—so many in which he seems to doubt whether he has not written too freely (take, for example, the conclusion of his sixteenth chapter, where he acknowledges, "I may almost say, that I have written this chapter with a trembling hand")—that we have been compelled, with the utmost reluctance, to abandon this hypothesis. If, as we think, the author has written sincerely, he may, perhaps,

reconcile his book—its maxims—its expedients and shifts—its duplicity and evasions, to his own conscience;—but, if so, we thank God that conscience is not ours.

The style of the present volume is matter of grave reprehension. It is complicated, affected, often obscure, slovenly, and, for the most part, singularly inharmonious. It is an imitation of that used in the Elizabethan age, especially of Lord Bacon's. The attempt is, to say the best of it, rash; for what living man could hope to succeed? You may adopt the frame-work of that extraordinary philosopher's language, but you will scarcely fill it up; or, if you do succeed in giving to the formation a definable shape, you will have the body without the soul. There is, in many paragraphs, an affectation of archaic words and phrases, and, generally, a conceitedness of manner, exceedingly repugnant to true taste and to modesty.

At this point of his literary career, Mr. Taylor would do well to pause, and examine the position in which he stands. Some years ago, rumour ascribed to him a tragedy ('Alexis Comnenus'), which, for its spirit, (in some instances at least, exceptionable, though slightly so, compared with the subsequent productions,) and for its mediocrity of merit, had the fate it deserved—viz. it instantly sank into oblivion. His 'Philip Van Artevelde,' though most deservedly successful, is open to censure for the absolutely immoral tendency of some passages. Now, we have a third of his productions before us, infinitely more to be condemned, notwithstanding its redeeming portions, than either of the preceding. Unfortunately for him, though the tendency of the two former was sufficiently understood, he did not meet, at the hands of the critics, the reprehension he deserved. To be silent on this third occasion, would be criminal in us, and most happy should we be if our strictures led him to greater examination and greater caution.

DRAMATIC GENIUS.

Ion. By Thomas Noon Talfourd. London: Moxon.

The dead Drama, it has been lately trumpeted, is about to rend her tomb and arise. We, too, have calculated, in our tables of contingent phenomena, when this revival may be looked for, and expect it along with the recommencement of oracles. How much on this side the day of judgment that will occur, perhaps the said flourishers can tell: for our own parts, we feel more inclined to place it *after*. Tragedy may, indeed, sweep forth again from her sepulchre, but it will be "in sceptred pall,"—that is, as a ghost or skeleton. Nevertheless, even thus, England should welcome her with a Garagantuan mouth of amazement and applause. But no!—to our sorrow, the Drama is *not* dead, for then were there some hope of its resurrection: it is annihilated! Spine, marrow, and spirit, have vanished into nothing, and left an eternal blank from henceforward in our literature. We have but *eight* Muses now—Melpomene is blotted out of existence!

The age is as graphic as you please, but not dramatic: nor will all the laurelling, or lauding, or cockering up of our poets, avail to produce dramatic genius, when the genius of the age, like another Manichean principle, is opposed to it life for life. They are, indeed, not capable of being born together, for so fell and early is their feud, that one of them strangles the other in the womb. Set up idol after idol for public adoration,—deify, as the Egyptians did, a leek or a lotus,—this sprout of Parnassus or that, there is but one god of the drama, (the Elizabethan spirit,) and Shakespeare is his prophet. Poets are a stiff-necked generation, and

may not choose to bow their heads in belief: let them follow any other faith, exalt any other object of worship—Wordsworth or Byron—we envy them not all the inspiration or aid they can derive from their Golden Calf or their Brazen Serpent. But of what use (the poets may ask) is your faith, if it do not enable us to work miracles? What inspiration or aid can we derive from acknowledging your divinity as the sole one? To which we answer—*none*; the miracles are performed, their time is past, the mission of the prophet is fulfilled. You ask for miracles: are they not written in the book of Shakespeare, of Marlowe, Webster, Ford, Beaumont and Fletcher, Jonson, Massinger, and their contemporaries? What would you more? Has not England done enough in the dramatic way: England, who gave birth to the only true drama, and compared with whose productions of that kind, all others, antique as well as modern, are puny abortions? Let us be understood: we are far from wishing to depreciate the Greek tragedies; but we consider them as philosophical poems in a faintly dramatic form, not as representations of real life, which alone can be entitled drama. This high walk of literature we claim for England, as the starry way which her genius first trod, to its culminating point, and where every other has stumbled or fallen through in the attempt to follow her. But we no more expect that her genius should be always Elizabethan, than her sovereigns. Indeed, a new Elizabeth might stand forth—a new dramatic genius, we apprehend, cannot, until England get another crust out of which to mould such a megatherion.

We know how unpalatable this opinion will be to our aspiring poets and their critical appraisers. Every full moon, we are told, is big with a great dramatist, as if she could drop one; every ignis-fatuus that glimmers over a quagmire is star to the nativity of a theatrical genius: eclipses threaten us with a plague of tragic poets; the last comet foretold their prodigious appearance. These regenerators of the stage, however, always keep *in prospectu*: their time of advent is always—future *in rus*; and such it always will be. Our reasons for thinking so are multifold; one or two we shall specify here. First, we have a belief that in the perpetual advance of any people from rudeness to refinement, each phase of its civilization is fitted to the opening and working out of a certain intellectual vein,—that is, to the production of a certain literature. Thus, we conceive, heroic ballad, chronicle, drama, epic poem, oratory, history, &c. have each their appropriate era of production in the life of a nation, so that history, for example, will be as rare and difficult in the earlier, unpolished times, as heroic ballad in the age of refinement.

We do not, of course, mean to mathematicize our system, and having cut the national life into squares, deny the possibility of a work being well written out of its proper cheque; but we assert that no *body of literature*, considerable and distinct enough to get a specific name, can be produced but under one phase, or at one particular stage in the progress of civilization. Taking this as a postulate, what is the proper epoch of drama in our annals? Certainly not the present, nor any future, except we un-refine ourselves to the due state of strenuous simplicity. Drama being the poetic representation of real life, its language, to affect the passions, deliriously and deeply, must be artless, energetic, and earnest: are these the attributes of refinement? Wordsworth is simple, (premeditatedly, artificially simple), but he is not energetic. Dramatic effects must be produced at once: to this end, dramatic lines must have the instantaneous flash and force of thunderbolts. How many thunderbolt lines in our lazy-pacing, long-winded

poems? Byron was electric now and then, but, on the whole, his style was drawn out, not dense; it had the voluminous roll as well as virulent dart of the rattle-snake. To touch at once the core of public feeling, to strike a mixed audience with pity or terror, thoughts and words must have a piercingness, a swiftness of flight, and directness of aim, that nothing can withstand but the seven-fold shield of stupidity: how should our dramatists attempt such a javelin style of eloquence? or do their light and feathery shafts fall upon the spectators with much more impetus than a shower of shuttlecocks? Characters must be drawn with an iron pen, distinct and strongly featured: is that possible, when, by social attrition, we are worn as like each other as pebbles on a strand? Where are the models to draw from, when individuality is lost in the sameness of civilization? Observe, in one play, Lear, Edgar, Edmund, Gloster, Kent, Goneril, Regan, Cordelia, and the Fool; with what a deep trench each character is demarcated; they appear sketched with a ploughshare like the plan of a city, to sever them from all around; every trait is a furrow, every point a salient angle. This is hyperbole!—but are we to be logical, when living dramatists are absurd? Dialogue should reverberate quickly for the most part,—loudly at excited times, like a dreadful bell: which of our smartest poets, now-a-days, can ask "How d'ye do?" in less than three verses? which of the longer tongues can toll with awfulness enough to make an alarm in our hearts, or rouse the sleepy congregation? Colloquy should be at the same time poetical and familiar: but it is the fate of refined language to creep when it cannot walk upon stilts; our dramatic poets can seldom venture on the simple without trenching on the silly, and mistake being common-place for being colloquial. Byron himself, we may assert, becomes rapid when not poetical,—steps at once from the deeps to the shallows. Nothing can be more bald or tame than the colloquial parts of his 'Werner,' &c. Truly, we have much chance now-a-days of an outburst like this,—so natural, so imaginative, so impassioned, at once: Coriolanus to Scinius,—

Shall remain!—
Hear you this Triton of the minnows? mark you
His absolute shall?

Or the tranquil impressiveness of this reply, in one line—

Else wherefore breathe I in a Christian land?

The hallowed lips of him whom we have called high prophet of the dramatic dispensation, were touched with fire; hence do his words burn, hence do they kindle such a splendid flame in our minds. Yet could he utter his dulcet and harmonious breath, by times, in strains—

As sweet as ditties highly penned,
Sung by a fair queen in a summer's bower,
With ravishing division, to her lute.

Finally, plots must be stirring and varied: how stirring, when the time for action is taken up by our dramatists in laying out lengths of inanimate poetry? how varied, when with them a whole scene can scarce elaborate a single incident? There must be, it is true, at proper times, relief from action—places of repose, quietude, and shade. Beauty is often found sleeping here. We no more look for perpetual fluctuation and foam in a fine drama than in a fine river; but too much smoothness tends in both to stagnancy—over-softness to insipidity.

Again: independent of civilization, as the polisher down of massive language in the rough, as the pumice of character,—we hold that the poetic genius of the age is far less virile than feminine. This, too, perhaps, may arise from civilization: no matter. The genius of the age is, beyond doubt, for a display of the softer affections, a luxuriant in the gentler ecstasies, a brooding over home beatitude, a dallying with,

and longing after, the more delicate forms of thought, the milder beauties of nature; it is for the pathetic rather than the sublime, the fanciful rather than the imaginative, for the embroidery and elegant flowerwork of the mind, rather than the stout web; its most iron texture being as fine as Vulcan's net, and almost always made, like that, to inclose a love-scene. Now such, precisely, is the genius of woman; and woman rules, at present, not only our hearts but our minds, her spirit enters into the very soul of our poetry, exercises the chief influence over our polite literature. Even the most energetic of our authors—Byron, owes his great popularity to this soft and Leander-like devotion towards her, almost everywhere through the waves of song; and Wordsworth, to the introduction of such amiable sentiments, thoughts, feelings, and phrase, as philosophic woman might use. Juvenile poets, by this taste, often give their productions a hermaphrodite hue; those who, but for this relish, would be, perhaps, very blooming authors, are infected with a kind of male green-sickness which now spares neither sex nor age. In the old it degenerates into little better than a "babbling about green fields, and "playing with the blankets." But however the genius of the age may evince itself, it must be exhausted. No tyrannical resistance, nor ridicule, nor contempt, from those who prefer genius of another kind, will stay or stifle that. And wherefore should not every rich vein of mind be wrought in its time and turn? From the love of novelty alone it must. Hence, by what we have designated the feminine genius of the age (and a great proportion of our writers are women), drama is rendered impossible. Drama, for the most part, deals with the higher passions, the sterner emotions, the perilous delights; with the tottering throne, the agitated forum, the sanguinary battle-field, rather than the fireside or the sheepwalk; its language is masculine and abrupt; its imagery, if beautiful, is the beautiful sublime; its whole complexion is the hectic and the feverous, less akin to the attractive than the appalling: Ladylike genius faints at it; men-children alone of the Tragic Muse love to play with her gilded dagger and her funereal plume, to hear the roll of her muffled drum and the blare of her death-denouncing trumpet. But our age rather calls for the bodkin and the ostrich-feather, the tambourine, and the pastoral flageolet!

Works, it is true, which are meant for immortality, must not be written altogether in the popular spirit of the age: much less, however, can they be written out of it. If altogether in it, they will probably die when it does, being suited to it and no other, being superficial and unstable, like all that is popular: if altogether out of it, they will inevitably want permanent foundation—truth, nature, and real feeling. The drama of the present age must, therefore, partake fully of its spirit, to preserve itself even as mere poetic effusion; which spirit we have shown to be irreconcilable with the genuine spirit of tragedy. How, in such an ill-starred predicament, our playwrights are to gain the wished-for port, will, perhaps, be discovered when mariners can sail in the teeth of the wind, with ships built of woodbine, and gossamer web for canvas!

Having thus set forth our abstract principles of dramatic criticism, we proceed in the application of them to the tragedy under notice—"Ion." Our prejudices, we acknowledge, do not run in favour of lawyer poetry. We have, indeed, no prejudices against it, but some few arguments. Not to dwell upon the disingenuous, cavilling, and piqueering spirit of bar-practice, the faculty for confounding right and wrong, which it is the pride of most jurists to possess, and their principal object to exercise,—not to more than hint that the precincts of the

dock and green table are but a strange aviary for songsters; that the tuneful tribe can learn no very pleasing wood-notes from gaol-birds, chattering in periwigs, and those superannuated rooks in rusty black, croaking about the doleful purlieus of the Inns of Court,—not to make an argument out of all this, because it may be said, there are those uncontaminated souls, chamber-lawyers and Chancery barristers,—not to denominate a study "dry," which may (and perhaps therefore) be to some interesting—we aver that the worldly, matter-of-fact, money-scraping nature of the legal profession, is anti-poetic. Much force, we think, lies in this *à priori* argument; but one of another kind may be more generally convincing, namely, the circumstance that not a single juridical name stands on the roll of poetic celebrity: not a single son of Themis, from the first of the Gamaliels down to the last of the Latitatis, has ever written a fine poem! We are doubtful whether "Ion" can be deemed to overthrow either our theory, or this induction; by which, of course, the reader will understand that we have no doubt at all upon the subject. Yet it contains some beautiful poetry. Let us quote a passage. Upon Ion going to visit the plague-stricken, Clemanthe asks:—

Will not this sight
Of frenzied agonies unfix thy reason,
Or the dumb wave congeal thee?

He answers—

No, Clemanthe;
They are the patient sorrows that touch nearest!
If thou hadst seen the warrior when he writhed
In the last grapple of his sinewy frame
With conquering anguish, strive to cast a smile
(And not in vain) upon his fragile wife,
Waning beside him,—and, his limbs composed,
The widow of the moment fix her gaze
Of longing, speechless love, upon the babe,
The only living thing which yet was hers,
Spreading its arms for its own resting-place,
Yet with attenuated hand wave off
The unstricken child, and so embraceless die,
Stifling the mighty hunger of the heart;
Thou couldst endure the sight of selfish grief
In sullenness or frenzy; but to day
Another lot falls on me.

This is sweet and touching; a good sample of the domestic imagery in which, as we have said, the genius of the age delights to shut itself up, like a silk-worm in a cocoon, spinning most delicate ties all around it. "Ion" is full of this fine staple. The author seems to write from the overflow of an amiable and affectionate spirit. Alas! that this is not the spirit we want; alas! that amiability and affectionateness will not produce a good drama. Our sticklers for the soft, the gentle, the domestic, the endearing, (excellent, save in excess,) seem to forget that the characters of "Othello" are not all Desdemonas, —of "Lear" all Cordelias. Nay, even though Romeo be somewhat of a Juliet, and old Capulet but another Nurse, there is the "gallant Mercutio," the "furious Tybalt," manliness enough in the most feminine of Shakespeare's tragedies. What would the greatest virago among our *he-poetesses* think of writing a drama, like "Macbeth," in which there should not be a single feminine character? Lady Macbeth is more man than her husband, while Lady Duff has, according to the rubric, "no character at all!"

Once more, we say, let us be understood. We do not contend against this modern worship of the household gods—this self-evolving style of meditation—this perpetual hymn and hosanna about the altar of social love, in praise of the soft-eyed Charities and Affections that preside over human happiness: we contend for the genius of the age, while turned to this, being developed to its fullest extent, inasmuch as every province of mind is worth the highest possible cultivation, especially one so near the heart. Holding Shakespeare the first of all poets, we cannot be deemed to derelict any fountain which inspired him; and we know he drew from none

more largely than the sweet, pure, deep well-spring of humanity. We simply affirm that this alone will never supply flood of eloquence enough for the Drama,—scarce enough for the sentimental department of it, containing such plays as "George Barnwell." There must be flaming imagination, potency of spirit, excursive research, no less than calm reflection, tenderness of feeling, and experience in the homestead, or, we might say, house-warming affections. The genius of the true dramatist will not loiter for ever between the fireside and the paddock, but range from heaven to earth. There are, however, still more undramatic qualities about "Ion" than the cottage-and-garden style of its imagery, or the tercel-gentle tone of its language. It has little interest of plot—no balance between hope and apprehension. The author, with less skill than a manufacturing novelist, makes an oracle in the second act disclose the whole catastrophe: we see that Ion is to die as well as Adrastus. Then, there is little or no delineation of character: in Adrastus we have the old original tyrant, full of boast, bloody threat, and blasphemous imprecation, mixed up most incongruously with the lovelorn mauderer of the present day, subdued by a boy's voice like his lost wife's; Ion and Clemanthe are hero and heroine as per receipt, not even of distinct insipidities; the sages, Medon, &c., might pass one for another, and the youths Phocion, &c., are like young gentlemen in general. We have already hinted that our author's versification belongs to the languishing style of poetry; whence his dialogue wants that vigour and abruptness requisite to drama. Thus, in the third scene of the second act, in the midst of the action we are stopped by the very clever, but most ramified description of a pine, twenty-one mortal verses long!

Have ye beheld a pine
That clasp'd the mountain summit with a root
As firm as its rough marble, and, apart
From the huge shade of undistinguish'd trees,
Lifted its head as in delight to share
The evening glories of the sky, and taste
The wanton dalliance of the heavenly breeze
That no ignoble vapour from the vale
Could mingle with—smut by the flaming marl,
And lighted for destruction? How it stood
One glorious moment, fringed and wreathed with fire
Which show'd the inward graces of its shape,
Uncumber'd now, and midst its topmost boughs
That young Ambition's airy fancies made
Their giddy nest, leap'd sportive;—never clad
By liberal summer in a pomp so rich
As waited on its downfall, while it took
The storm-cloud roll'd behind it for a curtain
To gird its splendours round, and made the blast
Its minister to whirl its flashing shards
Aloft towards heaven, or to the startled depths
Of forests that afar might share its doom!
So shall, &c.

Compare this with "Dover Cliff," and observe the difference, even in description, between an undramatic and dramatic genius. With more smoothness than sweetness, elegance than eloquence, Mr. Talfourd's diction is happiest in expressing those many prettinesses of thought with which the work abounds:—

Love, the germ
Of his mild nature, hath spread graces forth,
Expanding with its progress, as the store
Of rainbow colour which the seed conceals
Sheds out its tints from its dim treasury,
To flush and circle in the flower. No fear
Hath fill'd his eye save that of thoughtful joy
When, in the evening stillness, lovely things
Press'd on his soul too busily; his voice,
If, in the earnestness of childish sports,
Raised to the tone of anger, check'd its force,
As if it fear'd to break its being's law,
And falter'd into music; when the forms
Of guilty passion have been made to live
In pictured speech, and others have wax'd loud
In righteous indignation, he hath heard
With sceptic smile, or from some slender vein
Of goodness, which surrounding gloom conceal'd,
Struck sunlight o'er it.

There are some errors of costume, and incorrectnesses of speech, which appear singular enough in so polished a work. Thus, among the former, we reckon the subjoined passages, more feudal than is proper in a classic drama:—

His step
Awakes the echoes of these desolate courts
As if a warrior of heroic mould
Paced them in armour.

And

King Adrastus,
Mailed as thy heart is with the usages
Of pomp and power.

In what follows, Ion would seem to have anticipated the methodical cant:—

But they who call me to the work can shield me;
and here again he seems to be a "sad good Christian at the heart:—"

In heaven's great name,
I do conjure thee—and in hers, whose spirit
Is mourning for thee now!

Among other incorrectnesses of speech, we will note these few for the author's emendation:

Why do I creep thus stealthily along
With thieflike steps?

To steal and to *thieve*, we apprehend, mean pretty much the same thing; at least it would take an Old Bailey hair-splitter to find a distinction between them.

I had a deadly fever once, and slaves
Affrighted, fled me;—he *usurped* their place.

How "usurp," when the place was vacant?

These, our poet may say, are "spots in the sun;" true, but we could point out enough almost to make up a partial eclipse. Nevertheless, we repeat that his poem, upon the whole, is, in the phrase of the profession, "a credit to the bar," which, however, furnishes benches to a very different Temple from that of the Muses.

With regard to our dramatic strictures, the author may assert he did not intend 'Ion' for an acting tragedy. Now, in plain sincerity, we must acknowledge our suspicions that he intended it for anything it would turn out, as appears from its representation on Thursday. There has not been, about the manner of pushing it into favour, such apathy to applause as would lead us to suspect him of so moderate an ambition. His prefaces to the two editions "privately circulated" are plentifully bestrewn with compliments to persons of influence, from Wordsworth down to Macready. We owe some explanation to our readers on this subject, for the lateness of our notice. 'Ion' has been a year, not indeed before, but *behind* the public—printed under the pretence of private circulation. Copies of it, however, were presented to the principal editors of Reviews. Another impression came out in six months, the *Quarterly* having meantime, by a strain of its panegyric abilities, made a very grateful return for the preference accorded it. Other periodicals also repaid the private oblation with like praise;—we resolved *not* to notice it, until it was fairly before the public as an object for impartial judgment. We regard all such attempts to forestall criticism—to create a fictitious interest—to court a backstairs favour, as unworthy a man of real genius. Why should Serjeant Talfourd have got behind his fan after this fashion to coquet it with the critics? Was it generous, let us ask, to the unfriended, the unknown candidates for fame, perhaps for *food*, who have neither his rank, weight of character, nor purse, to recommend them? We observe a continuance of the same coyish prurency in the production of his piece at Covent Garden. It is to be played, forsooth, but "one night only," that our simple public may haste for a peep at the *rara avis*. Let there be no more of this, we entreat: 'Ion' may answer very well as an acting tragedy while we have nothing better. Wherefore should the author not allow us to enjoy his drama while we have the wish, lest we may lose it in a short time when our itch from so much titillation has subsided? We suspect, however, that should the good easy audience, on the benefit night, cry, like Caliban, to have the lovely dream again, they will be gratified.

Posthumous Memoirs of His Own Time. By Sir Nathaniel W. Wraxall, Bart. 3 vols. London: Bentley.

This is a continuation series, and includes the period from 1784 to 1789. We are saved the necessity of any elaborate criticism by the very hearty abuse poured out, equally by Whigs and Tories, on the former part. Whether the vivacity of the censure did or did not help the work into notoriety, may be a question: certainly it sold well, and was read by everybody; and such, we suspect, will be the fate of the present volumes. Sir Nathaniel assuredly is not to be altogether relied on as authority; he was not one of those favoured persons who are admitted behind the scenes, and who see the wires pulled as well as the puppets dance: but a voluminous commentator, by an eye-witness, on any eventful period, is sure to be welcome to the public generally, and Sir Nathaniel has a happy facility in lighting up his narrative with personal sketches, which give to it a living interest. On this occasion we shall confine ourselves to a few specimens from his portrait gallery—and first of the ladies. Here is a glimpse into the fashionable and political world in 1784 at the time of the famous contest for Westminster between Sir Cecil Wray and Charles Fox:—

"A new and powerful ally now appeared, who soon changed the aspect of affairs, and succeeded in ultimately placing Fox, though not first, yet second on the list of candidates. This auxiliary was no other than the Duchess of Devonshire, one of the most distinguished females of high rank, whom the last century produced. Her personal charms constituted her smallest pretension to universal admiration; nor did her beauty consist, like that of the Gunninges, in regularity of features and faultless formation of limbs and shape: it lay in the amenity and graces of her deportment, in her irresistible manners, and the seduction of her society. Her hair was not without a tinge of red; and her face, though pleasing, yet had it not been illuminated by her mind, might have been considered as an ordinary countenance. Descended in the fourth degree lineally from Sarah Jennings, the wife of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, she resembled the portraits of that celebrated woman. In addition to the external advantages which she had received from nature and fortune, she possessed an ardent temper, susceptible of deep as well as strong impressions; a cultivated understanding, illuminated by a taste for poetry and the fine arts; much sensibility, not exempt perhaps from vanity and coquetry. To her mother, the Dowager Countess Spencer, she was attached with more than common filial affection, of which she exhibited pecuniary proofs rarely given by a daughter to her parent. Nor did she display less attachment to her sister Lady Duncannon. Her heart might be considered as the seat of those emotions which sweeten human life, adorn our nature, and diffuse a nameless charm over existence.

"Lady Duncannon, however inferior to the Duchess in elegance of mind and in personal beauty, equalled her in sisterly love. During the month of July 1811, a very short time before the decease of the late Duke of Devonshire, I visited the vault in the principal church of Derby, where repose the remains of the Cavendish family. As I stood contemplating the coffin which contained the ashes of that admired female, the woman who accompanied me pointed out the relics of a *bouquet* which lay upon the lid, nearly collapsed into dust. 'That nosegay,' said she, 'was brought here by the Countess of Besborough, who had designed to place it with her own hands on her sister's coffin. But, overcome by her emotions on approaching the spot, she found herself unable to descend the steps conducting to the vault. In an agony of grief she knelt down on the stones, as nearly over the place occupied by the corpse as I could direct, and there deposited the flowers, enjoining me the performance of an office to which she was unequal. I fulfilled her wishes.'

"Such as I have here described her, was Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who, for her beauty, accomplishments, and the decided part which she took

against the minister of her day, may be aptly compared to Anne Genevieve de Bourbon, Duchesse de Longueville, in the French annals, immortalized by La Rochefoucault's passion for her, nor less famous for her opposition to Anne of Austria and Mazarin, during the minority of Louis the Fourteenth. This charming person gave her hand, at seventeen years of age, to William, Duke of Devonshire."

The personal influence and exertions of the Duchess were soon felt, and the ministerial party brought into the field the Countess of Salisbury, whose melancholy death is yet fresh in our memory.

"In graces of person and demeanour, no less than in mental attainments, Lady Salisbury yielded to few females of the court of George the Third. But she wanted, nevertheless, two qualities eminently contributing to success in such a struggle, both which met in her political rival. The first of these was youth; the duchess numbering scarcely twenty-six years, while the countess had nearly completed thirty-four.

"The Duchess of Devonshire never seemed to be conscious of her rank; Lady Salisbury ceased not for an instant to remember, and to compel others to recollect it. Nor did the effects fail to correspond with the moral causes thus put into action. Every day augmenting Fox's majority, it appeared that on the 16th of May, to which period the contest was protracted, he stood two hundred and thirty-five votes above Sir Cecil on the books of the poll."

The exultation of success was proportioned to the hazards of the battle; the Prince of Wales gave a splendid entertainment at Carlton House, and, on the same night, the whole party met again at Mrs. Crewe's.

"The scene of festivity became transferred on the same night to Lower Grosvenor-street, where Mrs. Crewe, the lady of Mr. Crewe, (then member for the county of Chester, since raised by Fox to the peerage in 1806,) gave a splendid entertainment, in commemoration of the victory obtained over ministers in Covent Garden. Though necessarily conducted on a more limited scale than that of the morning, it exhibited not less its own appropriate features, and was composed of nearly the same company. Mrs. Crewe, the intimate friend of Fox, one of the most accomplished and charming women of her time, had exerted herself in securing his election, if not as effusively, yet as enthusiastically, as the Duchess of Devonshire. On this occasion the ladies, no less than the men, were all habited in blue and buff. The Prince of Wales was present in that dress. After supper a toast having been given by his royal highness, consisting of the words 'True Blue, and Mrs. Crewe,' which was received with rapture; she rose, and proposed another health, expressive of her gratitude, and not less laconic, namely, 'True Blue, and all of you.'"

Then, as now, the Whigs took the lead in the splendour of their entertainments. Carlton House, Devonshire House, and Burlington House, were the centres of attraction. Having given an account of the festivities at Mrs. Crewe's, we must look in at Lady Payne's.

"Among the charming women who, in 1784, adorned the court of Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, (or, more properly to speak, the English capital; for scarcely could the queen be said to have any court,) might well be accounted Lady Payne, now Lady Lavington; her husband, Sir Ralph Payne, having been subsequently created an Irish baron. A native of Vienna, Mademoiselle de Kelbel—so she was named before her marriage—then resided with the Princess Joseph Poniatowska, widow of one of his late Polish Majesty's brothers, who had been many years in the Austrian service, where he attained the rank of general. Her person and manners were full of grace. At Sir Ralph's house in Grafton-street, the leaders of opposition frequently met; and Erskine having one day dined there, found himself so indisposed as to be obliged to retire after dinner to another apartment. Lady Payne, who was incessant in her attentions to him, inquired, when he returned to the company, how he found himself? Erskine took out a bit of paper, and wrote on it—

'Tis true I am ill, but I cannot complain;
For he never knew *Pleasure*, who never knew *Payne*.
Sir Ralph, with whom I was well acquainted, always appeared to be a good-natured, pleasing, well-bred man. His *Star* rendered him, like Sir John Irwine, Sir William Gordon, Sir George Warren, and other knights of the Bath of that period, a conspicuous as well as an ornamental member of the house of commons; but he was reported not always to treat his wife with kindness. Sheridan calling on her one morning, found her in tears, which she placed, however, to the account of her monkey, who had expired only an hour or two before, and for whose loss she expressed deep regret. 'Pray write me an epitaph for him,' added she; 'his name was *Ned*.' Sheridan instantly penned these lines:

Alas! poor Ned
My monkey's dead!
I had rather by half
It had been Sir Ralph.

Sir Nathaniel will be thought by many persons to have a very troublesome memory: whether it is to be altogether relied on, is a question not now worth discussing. As a set-off against the triumphs of the Whigs, Pitt proceeded to console the Tories with a few peerages: here is Sir Nathaniel's report of the new batch:—

"While the opposition thus indulged their intemperate joy on the election victory won with so much difficulty, Pitt, more judiciously employed in cementing the foundations of his political elevation, distributed peerages among his adherents. He had early secured the powerful co-operation of the Duke of Northumberland, who, from his vast property, when added to his local and official influence throughout the county of Middlesex, possessed a commanding interest in Westminster.

"This nobleman, from the condition of a Yorkshire baronet of the name of Smithson, had, in consequence of his marriage with the heiress of the Percys, been successively raised to the dignities of Earl and Duke of Northumberland. His eldest son, Earl Percy, having formed a matrimonial alliance with Lady Anne Stuart, daughter of the Earl of Bute, which proved equally unhappy and destitute of issue; the duchess, his mother, turned her eyes towards Lord Algonern, her second and only remaining son, as the best chance for perpetuating the line. Being of a delicate and feeble constitution, he had, by order of his physicians, visited the South of France, in which country he passed the winter of the year 1774 at the city of Aix, in Provence. During an excursion which he made to Marseilles, Lord Algonern accidentally met, in private company, the second daughter of Mr. Burrell, a commissioner of excise. Having accompanied her father to the shore of the Mediterranean, where he had repaired in pursuit of health, it was her fortune to make a deep impression on Lord Algonern. The Duchess of Northumberland, sinking under a decayed constitution, which was rapidly conducting her to the grave, and anxious to see her youngest son married, readily consented to their union, which took place in 1775, about eighteen months previous to her own decease. From this contingency may be said to have originated the rapid elevation of the Burrell family; one of the most singular events of our time. ••

"In 1779, the late Duke of Northumberland, then Earl Percy, having obtained a divorce from his countess, selected for his second wife Mr. Burrell's sole remaining unmarried daughter.

"But the fortune of the family was by no means confined to the females. The only son, a young man (it must be owned, for I knew him well,) of the most graceful person and the most engaging manners, having captivated the affections of Lady Elizabeth Bertie, eldest daughter of Peregrine Duke of Ancaster, she married him. Scarcely had the nuptials taken place, when her brother, the young duke, not yet twenty-three years of age, was carried off by a sudden and violent distemper. The ducal title reverted back to his uncle; but a barony of Edward the Second's creation, early in the fourteenth century, namely, Willoughby of Eresby, descended, together with great part of the Ancaster estates, to Lady Elizabeth Burrell. Nor did this peerage constitute her only dowry; with it she likewise inherited, during her life, the high feudal

office of lord great chamberlain of England, which has been ever since executed by her husband or son. Finally, Mr. Burrell himself, after being first knighted, was raised to the rank of a British peer in 1796, by the title of Lord Gwydir.

"In no private family, within my remembrance, has that prosperous chain of events, which we denominate fortune, appeared to be so conspicuously displayed, or so strongly exemplified, as in the case before us. The peerage of the Burrells was not derived from any of the obvious sources that almost exclusively and invariably conduct, among us, to that eminence. It did not flow from favouritism, like the dignities attained by Carr and Villiers under James the First, or by the Earls of Warwick and of Holland in the succeeding reign. As little was it produced by female charms, such as first raised the Churchills in 1685, the Hobarts under George the Second, and the Conynghams at a very recent period. Nor did it arise from pre-eminent parliamentary abilities, combined with eloquence; such as enabled Pulteney and Pitt, disdaining all gradations, and trampling on obstacles, to seize at once on earldoms as their birthright. Neither was it the reward of long, patient, supple, laborious, official talents and services, by which, in our time, Jenkinson, Eden, Dundas, and Vansittart were carried up to the house of lords. Mr. Burrell, who was destitute of any profession, could not open to himself the doors of that assembly by legal knowledge, or by resplendent achievements, performed on either element, of the land or of the water. Lastly, he possessed no such overwhelming borough interest, or landed property, as could enable him, at a propitious juncture, like Sir James Lowther, to dictate his pleasure to ministers and to kings. The patrimonial inheritance of the Burrells was composed of a very small estate, situate at Beckenham, in Kent. In his figure, address, and advantages of person, accompanied with great elegance of deportment, might be said to consist the foundations of his elevation. But even these qualities or endowments, which effected his marriage with a daughter of the Duke of Ancaster, would not have advanced him beyond the rank of a commoner, if an event, the most improbable, namely, the death of his brother-in-law, the young duke, though cast by nature in an athletic mould, had not rendered his wife a peeress in her own right; vesting in her, at the same time, one of the greatest hereditary offices of the English monarchy. As little did his three sisters owe their elevation to extraordinary beauty, such as triumphed over all competition, and surmounted every obstacle, in the instance of the Gunninges. Never were any women, in fact, less endowed with uncommon attractions of external form, than the three sisters just enumerated. Modest, amiable, virtuous, they were destitute of those fascinating graces which the fugitive of Philippi attempts to describe in their effects, when he asks Lycé,

— Quid habes illius, illius
Quæ spirabat amores,
Quæ me serpuerat mihi?

"I will conclude this digression on the Burrells by adding one fact more, scarcely less remarkable than those already commemorated; namely, that the charms which nature had so sparingly bestowed on the three younger sisters, who married some of the greatest noblemen in Britain, were lavished on the eldest, who gave her hand to Mr. Bennett, a private gentleman. I have rarely seen, and scarcely ever known, a more captivating woman in every point of female attraction.

"Sir Hugh Smithson, after having attained in his own person to the dukedom of Northumberland, which no man had reached since John Dudley, under Edward the Sixth, accepted at this time from the minister a barony, with remainder to his youngest son, Lord Algonern Percy. He succeeded to it in 1786, on the duke's demise; and four years later, Pitt raised him to the earldom of Beverley. We have recently beheld the late Duke of Northumberland, treading in the traces of his predecessor, procure in like manner a peerage for his younger son. So exactly is human life, and is history, composed of nearly the same facts, performed under different names, in successive periods. The king, who had held fast the key of the house of

lords during eight months that the coalition remained in power, now unlocked its doors; four earls, and six barons, being either admitted for the first time into that assembly, or raised to higher gradations of the peerage, previous to the day fixed for the meeting of parliament. Lord de Ferrars of Chartley, eldest son of Lord Townsend, became Earl of Leicester. He was a man of an improved mind, agreeable manners, licentious life, and entertaining conversation. No individual of eminence in my time was supposed to possess so much heraldic and genealogical information. Descended on both sides from a train of noble ancestors, he inherited, in right of his mother, no less than five baronies of the most ancient date, remounting to the close of the thirteenth century. Having asked his father's permission to be created Earl of Leicester, previous to his acceptance of it, that nobleman replied, with his characteristic humour, 'I have no objection to my son's taking any title except one, namely, Viscount Townsend.' Three years afterwards, in 1787, Lord Townsend regained the precedence that he had lost, Pitt having raised him to the dignity of a marquiss. In consequence of Lord de Ferrars' new creation, the Cokes of Holkham, in Norfolk, who, after the extinction of the Sydneys, had been elevated to the earldom of Leicester, became excluded from the hope of re-attaining that title, which had been worn by Plantagenets. Fox unquestionably intended to have conferred it on his friend and adherent Mr. Coke, if the coalition had remained in office. Lord de Ferrars laid claim to it, in virtue of his descent from Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, the *Cromwell* of the thirteenth century, who had nearly torn the sceptre from the feeble hands of Henry the Third.

"Sir James Lowther received at the same time his recompense, for having enabled the first minister to enter the political arena, where, in less than three years, he had raised himself to the summit of power. Overleaping the two inferior stages of the peerage, as if beneath his claims, Sir James seated himself at once on the earl's bench, by the title of Lonsdale; an elevation which, it might have been thought, was in itself fully adequate to his pretensions and services. Yet, so indignant was he at finding himself last on the list of newly-created earls,—though the three noble individuals who preceded him were already barons of many centuries old,—that he actually attempted to reject the peerage, preferring to remain a commoner, rather than submit to so great a mortification. With that avowed intention he repaired to the house of commons, where, in defiance of all impediments, he would have proceeded up the floor, and placed himself on one of the opposition benches, as member for the county of Cumberland, if Colman and Clementson, the sergeant and deputy sergeant at arms, had not withheld him by main force. Apprised of his determination, and aware of his having already kissed the king's hand at the levee on his being raised to the earldom, though the patent had not yet passed through the necessary forms for its completion; they grasped the hilts of their swords, restrained him from accomplishing his purpose, and at length succeeded in obliging him to seat himself under the gallery, in the part of the house allotted to peers when present at the deliberations of the commons. Means were subsequently devised to allay the irritation of his mind, and to induce his acquiescence in the order of precedence adopted by the crown.

"Such indeed were the eccentricities of Lord Lonsdale's conduct, not only on this occasion, but throughout life, as justly to call in question the sanity of his intellect. His fiery and overbearing temper, combining with a fearless disposition, scarcely under the dominion of reason at all times, led him into perpetual quarrels, terminating frequently in duels; for he never declined giving satisfaction, and frequently demanded it of others. Capricious, tyrannical, and sustained by an immense property, chiefly situate in the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland; he expended vast sums in election contests, where he was nevertheless sometimes successfully opposed by Lord Surrey, a man not less tenacious, active, and determined than himself. Lord Lonsdale regularly brought in from five or six up to eight members of parliament, among whom were

three Lowthers; and he was known to exercise over his nominees an active superintendence."

While on this subject, we may give a sketch of the strange good fortune of another person, subsequently raised to the Peerage:—

"I believe the present Earl Whitworth made an impression on Marie Antoinette, about the same time. He was highly favoured by nature, and his address exceeded even his figure. At every period of his life, queens, and duchesses, and countesses, have showered on him their regard. The Duke of Dorset, recently sent ambassador to France, being an intimate friend of Mr. Whitworth, made him known to the queen; who not only distinguished him by flattering marks of her attention, but interested herself in promoting his fortune, which then stood greatly in need of such a patronage. As Lord Whitworth is at this hour a British earl, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, decorated with various orders of knighthood, and one of the most distinguished subjects of the crown; I shall digress from Marie Antoinette for a short time, in order to relate some particulars of his rise and elevation in life.

"Lord Whitworth is about three years younger than myself, and must have been born in, or towards, 1754. His father, who had received the honour of knighthood, and was likewise a member of the house of commons, left at his decease a numerous family, involved in embarrassed circumstances. Mr. Whitworth, the eldest son, having embraced the military profession, served in the Guards, and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel: but, I believe, was more distinguished during this period of his career by success in gallantries, than by any professional merits, or brilliant services. Soon after his thirtieth year he quitted the army; and as his fortune was very limited, he next aspired to enter the *corps diplomatique*. The circumstance becoming known to the Queen of France, she recommended his interests strongly to the Duke of Dorset; who, not without great difficulty, obtained at length in the year 1786, for his friend, the appointment of minister plenipotentiary to the court of Warsaw. I know from good authority, that when that nomination was bestowed on him, no little impediment to his departure arose from the want of a few hundred pounds, to defray the unavoidable expenses of his equipment. The unfortunate Stanislaus Poniatowski then reigned over the nominal monarchy of Poland, and Mr. Whitworth gave such satisfaction while residing at Warsaw in his public character, that on a vacancy occurring at Petersburg about two years afterwards, he was sent as British envoy to Russia. During his residence of eleven or more years on the banks of the Neva, he received the order of the Bath, and was subsequently raised to the dignity of an Irish baron. But as very ample pecuniary resources were necessary for sustaining the dignity of his official situation, to support which, in an adequate manner, his salary as minister from the British court was altogether unequal, he did not hesitate to avail himself of female aid. Among the distinguished ladies of high rank about Catherine's person at that time, was the Countess Gerbetzow, who, though married, possessed a very considerable fortune at her own disposal. Such was her partiality for the English envoy, that she in a great measure provided, clothed, and defrayed his household from her own purse. In return for such solid proofs of attachment, he engaged to give her his hand in marriage; a stipulation, the accomplishment of which was necessarily deferred till she could obtain a divorce from her husband. Catherine's brilliant reign being closed, and her eccentric successor having adopted those pernicious measures which within a short period of time produced his destruction, Lord Whitworth returned in 1800 to this country. He was then about fifty years of age, and still possessed as many personal graces as are perhaps ever retained at that period of life.

"The Duke of Dorset, whose friendship had so eminently conducted to place Lord Whitworth in the diplomatic line, had already expired in July 1799, at his seat of Knole, in Kent. His decease was preceded by a long period of intellectual decay, or mental alienation, during the course of which, comprising nearly twenty months, the duchess his

wife discharged towards him, in a most exemplary manner, every conjugal duty and office. She was the eldest daughter of Sir Charles Cope, a baronet of Queen Anne's creation, and had completed her thirty-second year at the time when Lord Whitworth reached England. Her person, though not feminine, might then be denominated handsome; and, if her mind was not highly cultivated or refined, she could boast of intellectual endowments that fitted her for the active business of life. Under the dominion of no passion except the love of money, her taste for power and pleasure was always subordinate to her economy. The attachment of her late husband, aided by the decline of his intellect, had impelled him not only to exclude his nearest collateral heir, the present Duke of Dorset, from the succession to any part of his landed estates; but, in some measure, to sacrifice his own son to the interest of the duchess. In virtue of the duke's testamentary dispositions, she came into immediate possession of thirteen thousand pounds a year on his demise, besides the borough of East Grinstead during her life. So great an accumulation of wealth and of parliamentary influence had scarcely ever vested, among us, in a female, and a widow; especially when Dorset House, in Whitehall, as well as Knole, the seat of the earls and dukes of that name ever since Elizabeth's reign, eventually passed into her hands. Lord Whitworth, though under such obligations to the duke's friendship, yet being personally unknown to the duchess, did not present himself at her door till towards the close of the year 1800. But the courtship was short, and they were married in the subsequent month of April.

"Meanwhile the Countess Gerbetzow, to whose attachment Lord Whitworth had been so deeply indebted while resident at Petersburg, and with whom he had contracted such serious contingent engagements, having succeeded in procuring a divorce from her husband, left that capital on her way to England. At Leipzig, she first read in one of the Continental newspapers, that the Duchess of Dorset's nuptials with Lord Whitworth were expected shortly to be celebrated;—a piece of intelligence which, however unexpected or alarming it might be, only induced her to accelerate her journey. On her arrival in London, she learned that the union had already taken place. Irritated by disappointment and indignation, she had recourse to various expedients for obtaining restitution of the sums that she had advanced to her former lover, on the faith of his assurances of marriage. Her reclamations, which were of too delicate and serious a nature to be despised, when sustained by such proofs as she could produce in confirmation of them, at length compelled the duchess, most reluctantly, to pay her Muscovite rival no less a sum than ten thousand pounds; thus purchasing the quiet possession of a husband, as Mr. Hastings had bought the right to a wife, and nearly at as exorbitant a price.

"However highly advantageous was such an alliance for a man whose private fortune was of the most slender description; yet his political career might probably have terminated at this period of his life, if the connexion existing between his wife and the family of Jenkinson had not given it a new impulse. Lady Cope, the duchess's mother, a woman of uncommon personal beauty, married a second time in 1782, the late Charles Jenkinson, subsequently created Earl of Liverpool. After the peace of Amiens in 1802, as it became necessary to send an ambassador to the French republic, Lord Whitworth was selected for the employment. The vast pecuniary resources which his recent marriage afforded him, of sustaining the unavoidable expenses incident to such a mission, unquestionably facilitated his nomination. It is, however, admitted that he acquitted himself with dexterity, calmness, and judgment, during the short and stormy period that he remained at Paris. On his return to England, not occupying a seat in either house of parliament, he sunk during ten years into comparative insignificance. But, in 1813, before which time the present Earl of Liverpool had attained to the head of the treasury, he was once more called, at the advanced age of sixty-three, into active public employment. The Duke of Richmond's period of office of lord-lieutenant of Ireland being termi-

nated, Lord Whitworth received that high appointment, and was created at the same time an English Viscount. Two years later, Lord Liverpool included him among the seven individuals then raised to the dignity of Earls: while the duchess his wife had intermediately derived an augmentation of nine thousand pounds a year, in consequence of the calamitous death of her only son, the young Duke of Dorset, killed at the age of little more than twenty-one, in an Irish fox-chase. On this prodigious elevation stands Lord Whitworth at the present moment;—an elevation from which he may be said to look down even upon Lord Gwydir, hitherto esteemed the most fortunate individual of our time. Three females of the highest rank, one of them a sovereign; namely, the late Queen of France, the Countess Gerbetzow, and the Duchess of Dorset; successively aided his progress in life."

Sir Nathaniel's pencil is, we suspect, somewhat given to caricature. We have heard many things of the late Duke of Norfolk, but none that came up to his report:—

"Nature, which cast him in her coarsest mould, had not bestowed on him any of the external insignia of high descent. His person, large, muscular, and clumsy, was destitute of grace or dignity, though he possessed much activity. He might indeed have been mistaken for a grazier or a butcher, by his dress and appearance; but intelligence was marked in his features, which were likewise expressive of frankness and sincerity.

"At a time when men of every description wore hair-powder and a queue, he had the courage to cut his hair short, and to renounce powder, which he never used except when going to court. • • •

"Strong natural sense supplied in Lord Surrey the neglect of education; and he displayed a sort of rude eloquence, whenever he rose to address the house, analogous to his formation of mind and body. In his youth,—for at the time of which I speak he had attained his thirty-eighth year,—he led a most licentious life, having frequently passed the whole night in excesses of every kind, and even lain down, when intoxicated, occasionally to sleep in the streets, or on a block of wood. At the 'Beef-steak Club,' where I have dined with him, he seemed to be in his proper element. But few individuals of that society could sustain a contest with such an antagonist, when the cloth was removed. In cleanliness he was negligent to so great a degree, that he rarely made use of water for purposes of bodily refreshment and comfort. He even carried the neglect of his person so far, that his servants were accustomed to avail themselves of his fits of intoxication, for the purpose of washing him. On those occasions, being wholly insensible to all that passed about him, they stripped him as they would have done a corpse, and performed on his body the necessary ablutions. Nor did he change his linen more frequently than he washed himself. Complaining one day to Dudley North that he was a martyr to the rheumatism, and had ineffectually tried every remedy for its relief, 'Pray, my lord,' said he, 'did you ever try a clean shirt?'"

As our extracts have been entirely selected from the first half of the first volume, we presume that it is our reader's pleasure, as well as our own, that we should return to this work.

Romance of the Violet, otherwise of Gerard Count de Nevers; a Poem in Verse, of the 13th century, by Gilbert of Montreuil; now first published from two MSS. in the Royal Library—[Roman de la Violette, &c.] By Francisque Michel. 8vo. Paris, Sivestre; London, Dulau.

The zeal exhibited by the French within the last fifteen years, in the publication of their ancient literary monuments, is worthy of all praise. Their chronicles, romances, poetry, which have slumbered in the dust of libraries undisturbed from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries to the present time, have been examined, and the most interesting of them published. Not only have a succession of able antiquaries, Le Grand, De la Rue, Roquefort, Pluquet, Meru, Raynourd,

Mommerqué, Petitot, Michel, and others of equal ardour, though of less fame, arisen to vie with one another in the elucidation of these old treasures, but even Ministers of State have not thought the pursuit beyond their dignity, or inconsistent with their public duties; and, so long as vast erudition, philosophical views, and refined taste, have any value in the opinion of men, the name of Guizot will be revered. Had all our ministers together, even adding our two houses of Parliament,—nay, and the two universities to boot—one tithe of the patriotic and literary zeal of this great man, for great he will be held by posterity—we should not, at this day, be so frequently insulted with the taunt that commercial pursuits are incompatible with eminence in learning. We can assure Depping, Pluquet, Raynouard, and others, whom we know to have expressed equal surprise and contempt at what they justly term a national disgrace, that the nation is less to be censured than the government. In France, the state does something for literature; here, let any ministry that may be in power—tory, whig, half-radical, or a combination of all—the funds parsimoniously doled out are uniformly misappropriated. Political partisans may be enriched; but learning, however extensive—diligence, however indefatigable—and genius, however splendid, will never obtain a piece of copper coin, unless by indirect means. In the name, then, of the scholars of England, we protest against the imputation: if the government neglect one of its most imperative and glorious duties—if even the reading of the public in general be of a superficial and desultory kind—if our booksellers are naturally perhaps unwilling to engage in speculations which do not promise an abundant profit, and if these circumstances combined injure, to an incalculable extent, the interests of sound literature, still the learning and the genius of our country has no right to bear the disgrace of the accusation.

In the present paper, we have no intention to enter into the examination, or even the enumeration of what France has lately done for her ancient literature, especially her poetry. The subject would be too vast for a weekly periodical. All that we can do is to draw the reader's attention to such of the more interesting publications as fall in our way.

The 'Romance of the Violet,' now first published, was written by Gilbert, an inhabitant, probably a native, of Montreuil-sur-mer. It must have been composed in the former half of the thirteenth century, as it is dedicated to Marie Countess of Ponthieu, whose father, William, the third Count of the name, had married into the royal family of France, and who died in 1221. She died in 1251. Probably the author was in her service as minstrel: certainly, he was under obligations to her, or he would not so studiously praise her.

The poem itself cannot boast of an historical subject: there has been no Count of Nevers named Gerard. But it will not, on this account, be less acceptable to the reader. By M. de Roquefort it is justly styled "one of the most agreeable productions of the 13th century." With equal justice and greater minuteness it is thus praised by the editor, M. Michel: "Its action, which is ingeniously conceived, is clearly developed; it is combined, and again simplified with facility; and it derives a new charm from the manner of relating it, uninterrupted as it is by the commonplace maxims of love or religion, so frequent in our old romances. It exhibits admirable pictures at once historical and graphic; faithful descriptions of combats, tournaments, revelries, costumes, arms, and portraits of manners quite Homeric—manners the more striking in proportion as they differ from our own. Let us add, that this book, independent of the pleasure it

must afford in the perusal, will furnish us with abundant means of estimating the peculiar character of the French mind, and the state of the vulgar dialect of the Oil during the first quarter of the thirteenth century." This praise is perfectly merited; and readers, who are able to understand this romantic poem—alas! they are very few—will thank us for directing their attention to it.

The fable of the poem would have interest enough for the veriest novel-reader of our own days. It opens with a splendid festival given by a king of France at Easter in the fortress of Pont de l'Arche, to all comers of gentle blood. The dukes, counts, knights, and ladies assembled were so numerous and magnificent, that the like has not been seen in the whole world since Noah built the ark. After feasting came singing, and joyously did one fair lady after another raise her sweet voice in praise of love. Unfortunately, however, the author gives us no more than the two first lines of each song. Among the guests was one so graceful and handsome, that he made every lady's heart beat who looked upon him. And he was noble as he was graceful, and rich as he was noble—in short, he was the Count de Nevers, hero of the poem, and consequently endowed with every gift of nature and fortune. He was much admired by the king; nor did the admiration of the whole company decrease, when, on being required by the lady of Dijon's castellan, he too favoured them with a song. According to the manner of the age, it was wholly in praise of his mistress, whom he loved better than his own life. And well he might; for, was she not the most beautiful, the wisest, the gentlest, the most affectionate, and the most faithful dame between Metz and Pontoise? His luck excited the envy of the barons present; and one of them, Count Lisiart, full of malice and cunning, and more depraved than even Ganelos of Mentz, who occasioned the disastrous defeat of Charlemagne's rear-guard at Roncesvalles:—

Quimolt fu fel et de mal art:
Plus ot en lui homme felon
K'il n'ot oques en Ganelon,

resolved to humble the boaster. He offers, if agreeable to the king, to wager his broad lands against those of Gerard, that this beauty, so loving and so constant, will grant him the last favour in a single week after he enters her house. The king opposed the wager, telling Lisiart that he would probably rue his rashness; but the wilful Count persisted, and Sir Gerard was eager to accept it, asserting, that it would be easier for his rival to conquer all Germany with his single sword than to triumph over the fidelity of the incomparable Oriant. At length the bargain was struck, and the rogue, Lisiart, accompanied by ten knights, all disguised as pilgrims, hastened to Nevers. The fair lady was on the summit of a tower belonging to the fortress, ruminating on her lover, and sighing at his absence: the casement of the apartment was open, and she appeared to derive some consolation from the delightful warbling of the birds. At length she sung, and a fine Poicterin song it was, expressive of her desolate situation—the more desolate when contrasted with "the blooming trees and orchards, the smiling meadows, and opening flowers," which had no longer any charms for her. Having sung, she leaned her head pensively on her hand, and was thus seen by "the traitor Lisiart," who demanded hospitality of the castellan, and was instantly admitted with his train. The lady instantly, accompanied by her deceitful governor,

Qui fu molt fausse et trecheresse,

descended to the hall to welcome him. How, indeed, could she refuse to welcome holy pilgrims on their way to the shrine of good St. Giles of Languedoc? When all were seated,

however, great must have been her surprise to hear the Count profess so much love for her: for her alone he had come; and so wounded was his heart, that without her pity he could not live. His passionate expression had no influence on her; on the contrary, she assured him that it would be easier for him to reach the moon than his wishes in regard to her. She entertained him with a song, expressive of her undying attachment to the absent Gerard, and concluding with—

Laissez ester, ne m'en priez jamais;
Sachiez de voir c'est parole gastee.

(Let me alone; forbear your suit; know that your words are wasted). Observing that even-song was near, she arose, went into the kitchen, and ordered supper to be spread on the board. A gallant supper it was, consisting of roast fowls, venison, and fresh fish in profuse abundance. But the traitor could relish nothing; he thought of his broad lands which were likely to be no longer his; and he sat pensive and mournful. His despondency, however, was removed, when he found that the old governante was ready to aid him. She was a mischievous old sorceress, the daughter of a nun and of a common thief; what better, therefore, could be expected from her? She had evinced the purity of her own origin, by suffering a priest to begot her with two children, both which she had murdered:

De pute rachine pute ente.

(From a bad egg a bad chicken). The two worthies soon understood each other; she engaged to save his lands, he to reward her according to her wish. When bedtime came, he was conducted by two domestics with lighted torches to his chamber, and Gondree, the witch, hastened to attend her lady, whom she soon put to bed. But one thing surprised her much, and had surprised her for seven years. It was customary in the middle ages—do not blush, fair reader—for ladies to sleep in *puris naturalibus*; yet Oriant never laid aside a garment which shall be nameless. The old hag ventured to ask the reason of this; and she learned that the lady had a particular sign on her body, known only to her lord; and that if the sign should ever be seen by any other eye, she should be suspected of inconstancy. In vain did the witch endeavour to discover what the sign was; she was commanded to be silent. But she was not dismayed; though constrained to leave the apartment when her lady was in the bath, she contrived to make a hole in the door, and thus to become mistress of the secret. The sign was a violet (hence the name of the romance) on the right breast of fair Oriant. Of course her fellow traitor was hastily called to witness the same appearance. Lisiart returned to the king's court with great eagerness; Gerard was summoned; and with both a multitude of barons, knights, and ladies. Who had won? The king's wishes were with the Count de Nevers; but Lisiart, in a tone of triumph, insisted that the lady herself should be sent for, and it would then be seen whether he had not enjoyed her favours. The demand was just; and fair Oriant was conducted to the court. Here the rhymist quite luxuriates, in describing her splendid habits and her unrivalled beauty. Which of the ladies of ancient times,—which in romance, could be compared with her? What was the wife of Athis, what Polixena, what Helen of Troy, what Dido, Ismena, Antigona, Yesult, what Galiana, or Claramonda, by the side of Oriant? "The summer rose, when opening its petals at the dawn of day, is not so bright as her countenance; fairer it was than silver or ivory." He proceeds to inform us, that neither the lily nor the white-rose of the thorn was half so beautiful as her neck and bosom. Passing over the rest of the description, and the honourable reception she

experienced even from Count Gerard, who could not for a moment distrust her, she and the whole court were in the utmost consternation when Lisiart boasted of her favours, and, in proof of his boast, mentioned the secret violet. In vain were her protestations of innocence; Gerard owned that he had lost his fief; and he threatened poor Oriant with the vengeance due to her infidelity. He dismissed his attendants, and plunged with his unfortunate *amie* into the depths of a thick forest; here he dismounts, makes her do the same; draws his sword, and bids her prepare for death. But he is interrupted in his purpose by the approach of a dragon, breathing fire from mouth and nostrils, and displaying a pair of huge red eyes, enough to frighten the bravest hero. The animal was first perceived by Oriant, who, faithful to her feminine character, thought only of *his* safety, even when he was about to destroy her. "Flee, Sir! I see a devil advancing; you are lost if you do not look to yourself!" But the Count was too valiant to flee; he fought the beast, and killed it. By this time his anger was cooled, especially when he called to mind that by giving him timely warning of his danger, she had saved his life. He resolved that she should live, and that he would leave her for ever in the forest. He bade her an affectionate adieu:—

Biele Euriant!
Diex li Perce ki maint en haut,
Vous doinst de ses biens! Je vous lais!

And away he fled, afraid to look at her again, lest he should falter in his resolution. Desolate enough was her situation; but it was exceeded by her grief for the loss of her *ami*. She fainted away, and in this state was found by the Duke of Metz and twenty of his knights, who used means to recover her; and when returned to her senses, consoled her as well as they could. The Duke fell in love with her, and said he would marry her, were he not afraid of displeasing his people, who expected him to ally himself with the blood of kings. In the end he did resolve to marry her, and he acquainted her with his design; but great was his surprise to be repulsed: in fact, to disgust him, she said that she was of the vilest lineage, and that her conduct had been as infamous as her origin. But all would not do; the Duke did not believe her; or if he did, so great was his love, that he would sacrifice everything for her sake. He compelled her to mount, and to ride away with him. His men, indeed, were scandalized at his infatuation; why take up with this wild jade, when his own country had so many noble and beautiful ladies? Still he persisted, for he was smitten beyond the hope of cure. She does nothing but weep or sigh; in vain does the Duke endeavour to console her by singing to her: what heroine of romance ever forgot her first love?

While Oriant resides at Metz, where is poor Gerard de Nevers? Mournful are his thoughts; but he receives some consolation, in the remembrance that other great men had suffered as much by women as he had. Was not Solomon, who was so wise, deceived by them? Was not Samson, the strong, betrayed by one? Was not Absalom brought to his end by one. Nothing, he discovered, can be so foolish as to love a woman too much, and, as he proceeds along, he philosophically reviles the whole sex in a song: but grief sits heavy at his heart when he thinks of his *biele amie*. To escape from the remembrance, he hastens towards Nevers, to learn how Lisiart ruled his vassals. He disguises himself as a minstrel, reaches the city, enters the castle, and obtains permission to sing and play before Lisiart. Afterwards came the feast, and there was the witch Gondree beside Sir Lisiart, who—for what reason we are not told—reminded him of the service she had done

him. Count Gerard listens in amazement, and learns the whole truth, they little suspecting that he overheard them; hastily leaving the table and the city, he goes in search of Oriant, deferring his revenge to a more fitting season. We cannot follow him, however, through all his adventures, which are, *par excellence*, those of a knight errant. Suffice it to say, that he is the defender of forlorn damsels, the slayer of giants and robbers: indeed, he is the perfect mirror of chivalry, and his fame is spread throughout the country. But—hero like—his chief glory is to be found in the constancy with which he resisted the advances of noble ladies, and remained true to the fair Oriant. Not that he escaped the ordinary fate of knights errant; like others, he was made to drink of medicated, or rather, enchanted herbs, which had potency enough to make him forget fair Oriant "as if she had never lived in this world," and plunged him into love for one whom he had previously regarded with indifference; but no man can be blamed for the effects of witchery. At length, however, the enchantment was ended, in the ordinary, that is, the wonderful way, and Sir Gerard hastily left Cologne, to seek his desolate *amie*. It is always a rule in your genuine tales of chivalry, that, if love is to be perfect, the advantages on each side must be equal: now Oriant had saved the life of Sir Gerard—Sir Gerard must, therefore, save hers. On reaching the vicinity of Metz, he learns that a very beautiful lady has been accused of murdering the sister of the Duke; and, from the description, he at once perceives it must be Oriant. The crime, as the reader may easily conceive, had not been committed by this gentle creature, but by another, who mistook the victim for Oriant herself; however, as she slept in the same room, and as the corpse of the lady was found in bed in the following morning, who could doubt that she was the felon? In a word, Count Gerard fought for her, overcame her accuser, when he was made to confess the truth; and was happy thenceforward with his Oriant. In the sequel, he also defeated Lisiart, and recovered his important fief of Nevers.

The fable of the poem, however ingenious, is not, perhaps, wholly original. Possibly, Gilbert de Montreuil collected the foundation either from some previous romance, or from the vast chivalric love of the times. Many are the pieces now extant, apparently as old as the poem before us, which, in many of their details, are identical with those we have noticed. They are chiefly in MS., and they have been described, with a laudable accuracy, by M. Michel, the editor of the present work. To his elaborate introduction we refer the curious reader, for abundant information on this subject. We may, however, observe, that the *substance* of the book—without its touching simplicity and its graphic interest—appeared in a prose romance of the 15th century, under the title of 'Roman de Gerard de Nevers, et de Euriant de Savoye sa Mie;' a work republished by M. de Tressan above half a century ago. The piece, too, we may add, was imitated by Boccaccio, and from him by one Shakespeare, in his 'Cymbeline.'

If the merit of the entire invention cannot be positively awarded to Gilbert de Montreuil—though his claim is as ancient as any with which we are hitherto acquainted—we cannot deny him imaginative powers of considerable extent. He must have added, and largely too, to the stores he collected; and the embellishments, the descriptions, the sequential minor circumstances, the pathetic incidents, the indescribable charm of simplicity, are entirely his own. The dialect, which is that of the Oyl, in the Eastern romance, spoken, with considerable variation, from the Meuse to the Mediterranean, is remarkably pure

for the period. Let the learned reader compare it with the published works of other *Trouvères*, and he will be convinced of this fact. If he should extend the comparison to the poets of Normandy, especially to Wace and to Marie de France, he will feel a higher gratification—that arising from the contemplation of two great dialects, sprung, indeed, from the same parent stock, but generally dissimilar in structure and inflexion, and, not unfrequently, in the words themselves. But, after all, the value of the book, to modern readers, will be its vivid description of manners, habits, and modes of life, during the thirteenth century. It is disgraceful to history that so few of these venerable remains have been consulted; they throw an immeasurably greater light on the state of society than all the chronicles that have ever been written.

We cannot dismiss this poem without advert- ing to one circumstance, not generally understood at the present day. Oriant was not the wife, (*épouse*), she was the mistress (*amie*), of the Count de Nevers. That she should be treated with so much distinction, not only by her paramour, but by the highest nobles, and even royalty, may appear strange to modern readers. But it must be remembered, that by the civil, as well as by the Germanic code, any unmarried noble or knight could keep one mistress, provided he was faithful to her. She could never, indeed, hope to attain all the privileges of a wife, because no lady in an *equal* condition of life would ever consent to be a concubine, and because, by the barbarian law, if even she were married to any one much *above* her, that marriage was invalid, so far as regarded the legitimacy of the offspring: in other respects it was sacred enough, and could not be dissolved by the state. Frequently, indeed, the warrior, after years of cohabitation, led his mistress to the altar; but in society she could never command the respect due to a wife, bound by the tie of an equal marriage. Her children could not inherit his fiefs; they could not fill several important offices in the state; and they were excluded from the priesthood. But on the other hand they could be rendered legitimate, by an act of the sovereign, or even of the Pope—the only authorities on earth that could confer so great a boon. In reality, the state of concubinage was one of honour, not of disrepute: the daughter of a simple knight thought herself honoured by such a connexion with a noble; nor did the proud offspring of the noble disdain to form it with a prince. The concubine was not excluded from the sacraments of the church, so long as she was faithful to her lover; but if she went astray, she was as severely punished as if she were the wife. If he, too, sinned with any other woman, he was visited with ecclesiastical punishment no less severe than if she were his wife. He could, indeed, marry any other woman; but from that moment he was compelled to forsake his mistress, and never again to be alone with her. From the canons of the most ancient councils and synods, we learn that the connexion was disapproved, and for some time opposed, by the church; but, in the end, human nature bore away the victory, and Holy Mother could only modify what she could not extirpate. After all, it may be said, this was a guilty condensation. We certainly do not mean to defend it; but we suspect that some kind of religious ceremony was performed when the parties were first connected in this manner. We think that there were even marriages that should be considered binding for a certain period only; but after having well examined the subject, and referred to the civil, barbaric, and ecclesiastical laws, we dare not assert this. One thing only is indisputable—that such connexions *did* exist, however reluctantly sanctioned by the church. When, there-

fore, we read of *bastards*, we must not affix to the term the odious acceptance it would bear in our own days. Many were the bastards who inherited kingdoms; but they were the offspring of such connexions, and they were rendered legitimate before they could receive homage from the baronial vassals,—before even they could be named. In fact, no bastard, even in this sense, could be the lord of any knight, until he had obtained the necessary diploma of legitimization. If, in after years,—probably to the close of his life,—he was still called *bastard*, the name was one of distinction only: it had merely reference to his former state of disqualification. From such a connexion sprung our William the Conqueror, who was made legitimate by the act of his liege superior, the Sovereign of France,—an act confirmed by the Pope. We may add, that his mother became the wife,—though this fact would not remove the disability attached to his birth,—of the Duke of Normandy, his father.

A Home Tour through the Manufacturing Districts of England in the Summer of 1835. By Sir George Head.

[Second Notice.]

We promised to return to this work, and will keep our word, though somewhat pressed for room. The account of the Huddersfield tunnel may interest our readers:—

"Between Huddersfield and the village of Marsden, where the tunnel commences, there are on the canal forty-two locks, the turnpike-road leading by the side, along higher ground, through a romantic glen, which assumes gradually a more and more mountainous character. The mouth of the tunnel is about seven miles distant from Huddersfield, a little to the north of the canal. Here the Manchester road commences a stupendous ascent, of a mile and a half in continuation, so that, were it not that the tunnel proclaims its own wonder, being in length three miles and a quarter, cut through the middle of a solid mountain,—the face of the country altogether would seem to bid defiance to such a work of art. The cost is said to have been 300,000*l.*, which brings the expense to 1*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* per inch. * * The span of the circular aperture is about ten feet: the height not sufficient to allow a man to stand upright in the boat,—those used in this navigation being of a narrow, compact build, suited to the service, and capable of carrying from twelve to twenty tons.

"The operation of working the boats through is a singular one; and performed by a description of labourers adventitiously hired for the purpose. * * These men, from the nature of their service, are called 'leggers,' for they literally work the boat with their legs, or kick it from one end of the tunnel to the other; two 'leggers' in each boat lying on their sides back to back, derive a purchase from shoulder to shoulder, and use their feet against the opposite walls. It is a hard service, performed in total darkness, and not altogether void of danger, as the roof is composed of loose material, in some parts, continually breaking in. Two hours is the time occupied in legging a boat through, and a legger earns a shilling for a light boat; after twelve tons he receives one shilling and sixpence; and so on."

We must, before we leave Huddersfield, take a peep into the pig-market:—

"The Huddersfield pig-market has attained much celebrity, and is furnished almost exclusively from Ireland, *via* Liverpool, whence these animals pass in droves, not only through the manufacturing districts, but even to more remote parts of the country. The breed of Irish pigs is improved tenfold within the last few years; besides, as they live on more equal terms with their masters than the English hog, as regards the privileges of air and exercise during the period of fattening, they are considerably less oppressed by their weight while on the march. Thus they are greedily bought up, and are really worthy, in every sense of the word to a spectator, of the encomium passed on them by a farmer, upon whose recommendation I made it a point to attend on a Huddersfield market-day, 'Lord, sir,' said he, 'they are such beauties!'

"On arriving at the market-place half an hour before the time of commencing business, not a pig was to be seen; but on learning the different droves were at that time undergoing ablution at the river, I walked thither in order to see the performance. Few, indeed, are the services a pig receives at the hands of his master without remonstrance; and reasonably,—for never, as a Greek author has somewhere observed, are human hands laid upon him but either to curtail by cunning devices his animal enjoyment, or execute upon his person one vile purpose or another: however, on the present occasion, to my great surprise, for I should have thought washing second only to shearing, every pig submitted to the ceremony with most perfect complacency; in fact, being heated and feverish after their journey, they seemed delighted by the cooling process. The herd being driven up to their bellies in the river, one man was entirely occupied in sluicing them with water from a pail, which he continually dipped in the stream and emptied over their backs. Another fellow anointed them, one after another, with yellow soap, and so soon as he had raised a copious lather rubbed the hide, first soundly with his hands, and then with the teeth of a horse-mane comb;—now and then, in particular cases, it became necessary to have recourse to an instrument of still greater power,—his broad thumb nail. After rubbing and lathering for some time, they were sluiced again, and as painful after painful decended on their hides, no sound was heard among them—not even a wince or snort; on the contrary, every now and then a soft happy grunt (and a grunt is an expression of happiness among the whole animal kingdom, rational or irrational) seemed unequivocally to describe their perfect content and satisfaction.

"Their bristles shining like silver-wire, each lot were now driven to the market-place, where, provided with an ample bed of clean straw, they disposed themselves according to their separate parcels, with such economy of space, that a spectator would have been considerably inclined to underrate their numbers; for there were not fewer than 600 present."

At Dewsbury we have an account of a new trade which has sprung up of late years—that of grinding old garments into new:—

"Literally tearing in pieces fusty old rags, collected from Scotland, Ireland, and the Continent, by a machine called a 'devil,' till a substance very like the original wool is reproduced: this, by the help of a small addition of new wool, is respun and manufactured into sundry useful coarse articles, such as the wadding which Messrs. Stultze and Co. introduce within the collars of their very fashionable coats, and various descriptions of druggets, horse-sheeting, &c.

"The trade or occupation of the late owner, his life and habits, or the filthiness and antiquity of the garment itself, oppose no bar to this wonderful progress of regeneration; whether from the scarecrow or the gibbet, it makes no difference; so that, according to the transmutation of human affairs, it no doubt frequently does happen, without figure of speech or metaphor, that the identical garment today exposed to the sun and rain in a Kentish cherry-orchard, or saturated with tobacco-smoke on the back of a beggar in a pot-house, is doomed in its turn, 'perustus liquidis odoribus,' to grace the swelling collar, or add dignified proportion to the chest of the dandy. Old flannel petticoats, serge and bunting, are not only unravelled and brought to their original thread by the claws of the devil, but this machine, by the way, simply a series of cylinders armed with iron hooks, effectually, it is said, pulls to pieces and separates the pitch-mark of the sheep's back,—which latter operation really is a job worthy of the very devil himself. Those who delight in matters of speculation have here an ample field, provided they feel inclined to extend their researches on this doctrine of the transmutation of coats: for their imagination would have room to range in unfettered flight, even from the blazing galaxy of a regal drawing-room down to the night cellars and lowest haunts of London, Germany, Poland, Portugal, &c., as well as probably even to other countries visited by the plague. But as such considerations would only tend to put a man out of conceit with his own coat, or afflict some of my fair

friends with an antipathy to flannel altogether, they are much better let alone. * *

"It is really extraordinary to observe, on taking a portion of shoddy in the hand as it comes from the mill, the full extent of its transmutation—how perfectly the disentanglement of the filament has been effected; although, notwithstanding its freshened appearance, time and temperature must have inevitably brought it nearer to the period of ultimate decay."

We must conclude with a visit to Mr. Waterton, at Walton Hall. If we are to administer justice according to the same standard which has recently been applied to certain "Pencilings," we should here frown, and say that such details ought not to have been published; as it is, we shall extract rather than reprove; and, leaving the description of the crocodile whilom ridden by the singular owner of this mansion, and of the nondescript, by whose engraved head he has seen it pleasant to mystify the public—draw upon the Home Tour for a "prospect" of the grounds of Walton Hall.

"Away we walked, straight from the doors, without a soul to interrupt us; for the habits of the owner are active and early: to think and to act being with him synonymous terms, nothing once thought of remains to be done,—besides, we were, above all things, in a park surrounded by a high stone wall.

"We left the island by the drawbridge before mentioned; there is no other access to the house; and this being but slightly built, is not sufficiently strong for the transport of heavy articles of home consumption, such as coal, &c. All such, therefore, are ferried across the moat in a small vessel for the purpose.

"Within the moat, close to the bridge, stands an ivy-clad battlement, all that remains of the ancient wall that in former times surrounded the island. The original gate is still preserved, of massive oak; and here a bullet is to be seen, deeply embedded in the wood, said to have been shot from a pistol by the hand of Cromwell himself, on being refused admittance, when, at the head of a squadron of cavalry, he called upon the ancestor of Waterton to surrender.

"In the midst of the ivy, and partially hidden by its leaves, is a plain wooden cross; in such a situation this sacred symbol has a striking effect, for while it testifies the firm adherence of the owner to his ancient faith, it is not less calculated to excite in the bosom of a stranger a confidence in his hospitality.

"After examining the aforesaid gate, many centuries old, as appears by its model, as well as the massive fragment of the original wall, sufficient in its state of preservation, and in its dimensions, to serve as a sample of what the whole had been in former days, I was proceeding to walk on, when 'Stop,' said my host, and, at the same time, taking a small stick out of my hand, he inflicted a few gentle taps on the ivy above. 'Not at home,' said he, returning me the stick. A pet owl, as I afterwards learnt, had here established his residence:—his usual habits being to mouse by night and slumber by day, the above signal was intended to request him to make his appearance; on the present occasion, whether he happened to be sound asleep, absent on business, or troubled with indigestion, I never discovered; at all events, he disregarded the invitation.

"Near this spot was a circular pillar of stone, perforated all round with small apertures, after the fashion of those in a pigeon-house, the object being to afford an habitation for starlings: in the same pillar, other holes of still smaller dimensions were likewise bored in order, the latter for tom-tits. In neither case did justice appear to be rendered by the birds to the intentions of the architect, their capricious fancy not being always determinable by human sagacity and observation.

"On the lawn, before crossing the moat, stood an extraordinary sun-dial, or, more properly speaking, a cluster of sun-dials, for it consisted of an incosahedron, on each of whose twenty sides was a separate dial; all the twenty gnomons being parallel with its poles. * *

"Mr. Waterton takes special delight in studying

the habits, and attending to the motions and conversations, of his feathered visitants; sometimes regarding them, while engaged in their natural occupation, through a powerful telescope from his drawing-room windows; and at other times observing their movements from various points of ambush on the banks of the lake. To aid the latter recreation, a well-grown wood extends for a considerable distance along the water's edge.

"We were walking through this wood, when Mr. Waterton, making a sudden turn towards the water, beckoned me to a spot where stood an ancient oak, hollow with age, and covered with ivy. In the hollow part a bench had been introduced, which latter formed a comfortable seat; and as it afforded a view of the lake, partially intercepted by bushes and thick boughs of trees, it was occasionally used as one of the points of ambush before alluded to. Here we sat for some time looking at the birds, during which period I may safely affirm, that I never beheld, even in a savage country, wild fowl more at their ease, or more thoroughly in a state of nature: for, in point of fact, they dabbled and sported about quite as independently, and with as little concern, as if the race of man were blotted out of creation. When we came out of the tree, I was asked what I thought of it? I replied, just as I thought, that it was a noble old tree, and a remarkably fine object. I was then made acquainted with its history. This tree had only existed, or rather stood, in its present position, during the last six years; its original situation being one, wherein its massive trunk and bold outline were entirely lost to the surrounding landscape: it was therefore carefully taken down by a horizontal cut close to the ground, placed upon a timber-tug, and, by the aid of several horses, conveyed to this new spot. Here, placed upright ingeniously, upon a solid stone foundation, the ivy, which at the same time was planted around it, has since grown up and flourished, so that it may fairly be expected to maintain the pseudo honours of antiquity for at least another generation."

We now take leave of this volume, wherein Sir George, like the Dewsbury Devil above described, has turned the common materials of every-day life to most pleasant uses.

The Life and Times of William the Third. By the Hon. Arthur Trevor. Vol. II. Longman.

IS our review of the former volume of this work, although we differed widely from the writer on some important points, we bore willing testimony to the care and labour he had bestowed on the subject, and to his conscientious desire to do justice to all parties concerned in the revolution of 1688. But whatever differences may exist as to the motives which actuated the leaders on that occasion, there can be none, we think, as to the ultimate benefits of the revolution itself, nor will any one venture to withhold from William the praise of having executed the important trust reposed in him, when advanced to the Crown, with scrupulous integrity and moderation. The present volume commences with the formation of his first ministry, and concludes with his death,—a period less interesting, but by no means less important, than that included in the former.

Among the charges brought against William, one of the most revolting, and on this very account most pertinaciously insisted upon by Jacobite writers, is his participation in that atrocious act of cruelty, the massacre of Glencoe. Mr. Trevor's account of that unhappy business is clear and impartial, and tends strongly to strengthen the belief, that the mass of obloquy which has hitherto rested on the memory of William, should be transferred to that of the Earl of Bredalbane.

Wood Leighton, or a Year in the Country. By Mary Howitt. 3 vols. Bentley.

The Mountain Decameron. By Joseph Downes. 3 vols. Bentley.

TALE-tellers, anxious we suppose to escape from the trackless wilderness of fiction, love to locate

their heroes and heroines in some well-known or well-remembered haunt of city or country, and, though their men and women be "merely players," to surround them with a world of reality. Out of this, imagination works up an historical past: what chance traveller, for instance, ever visited Florence, without going in pilgrimage to the Valley of the Ladies? and how many weary feet have tracked the route of the hero of Le Sage's novel! Here in London we have the Tabard in Southwark, and the Hercules Pillars; but no, the latter, in the changes of time, has given way to Hamilton Place, though we well remember the old suburban inn. Of late this scene painting has become even more literal—itself an art; and to our prose artists we, poor caged and prisoned birds, owe not a few pleasant glimpses into the green nooks and shaded corners of old England: of 'Our Village,' we know every upland and meadow, every hedge-row elm and winding field-path, as well as if we had lived there from boyhood: Miss Bowles's 'Church Yards' we could body forth with the pencil, and not leave one single tree or tombstone forgotten; and, on closing the work before us, we felt that to our sketches of familiar places, seen and yet unseen, we might add 'Wood Leighton.'

The charm of the book lies in its unaffected and fresh descriptions of nature, and the pure, unworldly morality it inculcates; the tales too read as if the narrator was giving forth recollections and experiences. Its faults are rather of mechanism than of mind: scenes which might have excited a breathless interest are indicated, rather than boldly pictured; and characters with whom we should have grappled, as in the pleasures and business of life, are sketched with a hesitating pencil, and appear shadowy and indistinct. But though we prefer those passages and scenes in which the country is described, among them the visits to Chartley and Croxden, we like many others,—the sketches of beggars and way-farers, and of Mr. Crumpton's old housekeeper, who would "sit purring by the fire" for an hour together; we like too the occasional glimpses at the old sports and customs which are brought vividly before us, and we look forward with pleasure to the next prose work, by Mrs. Howitt, when her hand, no doubt, will have become more bold and vigorous.

'The Mountain Decameron' is a strange olla podrida, containing infinite variety, that is, things dull, clever, coxcombical, natural, and affected. The subject was admirably well chosen;—Ireland with its White Boys, its racy wit and its squalid misery is exhausted; Scotland, too, for all the uses of a romancer, is worn out; but the Principality is intact, and its traditions and its language are full of poetry, its costume peculiar and picturesque, and its scenery sublime. But it has been the pleasure of Mr. Downes to connect his tales with digressions and disquisitions; to indulge in conceits and "affectations"; to write poems in which imagination is travestied, and rhyme dislocated, till we are perplexed to know, whether their manufacture was in jest or earnest; and to trouble us with dreary *palavers* between quakers, doctors and other strange animals, until we are utterly worn out with weariness and ill-humour. We regret this the more, because in all the tales to which these impertinencies serve as framework, there is evidence of power, which, less perversely used, might have made the work as impressive and enchainning, as it is now tedious and disappointing. How is it, unless indeed it was in mockery, that the writer of 'The Raven from the Dead' could publish such stuff as this?—

The sea-dogs shall feast to-night, for the war is at the height,

'Twixt the powers that the world trembles under,
The Sea and the sea-vault join in terrible assault,
And roar with undistinguishable thunder.

Now regard your *souls'* estate, for your bodies 'tis too late,
Ye, who now in more than mortal battle bailed,
On wreck, or rock, or wave, hold brief parley with the Grave,

That yawns 'neath your rocking death-scaffold!

Pray, pray for them, ye who feel land's firm blessing,
While they reel.

On the avalanche of billows plunging,
With such wild swirl and sway as they'd wash our world away

To rage sole in the elemental dungeon.

There a blue-lipp'd bloated Death, hunts whatever lives by breath,

Hunts dumb, in her Chase of mountain-waters,
Whose waves, like her wild pack, rage by thousands in its black,

At the work of her bloodless slaughters.

When too late to repent, on the mind of swimmer spent,
She flashes some forgotten old iniquity;

To smite, another, confound him soul and body—she is round him.

A shark-gnawed cadaverous Ubiquity!

A ship struck with all its souls! where it beats and where it rolls,

Hark the shrill voice of agonized Woman!
Voice that more than words expresses, as 'midst beasts' in wildernesses,

One unrepented shriek of the human.

A single shocking sound! by the rage of waters drowned,
Where the noon, burst through clouds in commotion,

Sees a babe at a bared neck, snatch one more draught on the wreck,

Whose next will be the bottom-brine of ocean!

One has almost gained the beach—but he faints ere he can reach—

Hark! his cry with the hurricane's vying!

Vain cry! a coffin'd form not more hopeless, though the storm

Death's decencies denies to his dying.

For no ritual Death waits, human hopes and loves and fates,

On the fight of wind and wave hang suspended!

For those now gaily singing, a night like this is bringing,

A night that shall never be ended.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

'*Titus Vespasian, a drama, with other Poems*, by James Ford, M.D.'—A translation (or rather paraphrase,) of Metastasio's 'Clemenza di Tito.' None can appreciate more thoroughly than ourselves the exquisite polish of this musical Italian writer of opera-books; but when Dr. Ford gravely tells us, that 'Metastasio, in some of his dramas, has not been surpassed by Shakespeare himself, in the portraiture of the heroic virtues,' we are so annoyed at the folly which would measure a jessamine bush against an oak tree, that we incline not to say, that the minor poems at the end of this dreary paraphrase are some of them pleasing and melodious.

'*Inklings of Adventure*, by the author of 'Pencil-lings by the Way.'—The papers which Mr. Willis has contributed to the New Monthly Magazine have been sufficiently popular to make their republication in a collected form, welcome; and the stir excited by his recent sketches of English life, manners, and scenery, was sure to attract attention to any future work from the same pen; these 'Inklings,' then, make their appearance at a lucky moment, and will be read and admired by many, for the descriptions which they contain of scenes hitherto only described by straight-forward, work-day travellers, and for the lively style of their dialogue. We, indeed, prefer a connected story of progressive interest, to any miscellany of short fragmentary tales, however brilliant or exciting; and we should be glad to see Mr. Willis employing his talents of description, and graces of style, upon a more sterling subject than a series of somewhat boyish love-adventures.

'*The Hour of Retribution, and other Poems*, by Dugald Moore.'—We should find little difficulty in furnishing, off-hand, a table of contents which would prove sufficient for nineteen-twentieths of the thin small volumes of poetry which issue almost weekly from the press,—a few flowers of sentiment—a dash of metaphysics, if the author be strong-minded—and many dilutions of natural beauty, be he of the "sermons in stones" school—a few imitations from classical authors—with a heroine or two commemorated in rhyme, might serve for dozens of them. But we must not wander far in our speculations, especially as Mr. Moore is not of the class whose works we have been characterizing; he has a mind and a way of his own. These lead him towards what is lofty both in conception and expression; but his volitions are not always seconded by his powers. We see and feel what he has intended, but are not sure that

others will read with equal attention. He is, too, somewhat over-fond of quaint expressions and abrupt changes, which, though disregarded in the works of the great masters, are in themselves dangerous, and to be avoided. The public will, we suspect, like him best in his simpler mood, of which we offer a specimen:—

The Death of Clapperton.

An Africa's sunset, and he lay
Upon his sandy bed,
While the broad sinking star of day
Flash'd fiercely on his head;
The desert without shade or sound,
Stretch'd like eternity around.
He bent his dim dilated eye
On the approaching night,
Nought but a broad and blistering sky
Smote on his fever'd sight;
A fiery firmament, a sphere
Without one shade or floweret near.
One star arose;—his memory flew
Far o'er the ocean's breast,
To that proud isle, amid the blue,
Bright billows of the west!
That land where pass'd youth's hours of glee,
Like music o'er a summer sea.
He saw her thousand hills again,
Their pine-clad summits steep
Amid the skies unbounded plain;
He saw that Sabbath sleep
Which hangs so sweetly o'er each glen,
Where wander Scotland's freeborn men.
He saw the lone and broomy braes;
The blackbird's cheerful strain,
Which cheered him in his boyhood days,
Crept to his soul again!
He turned, and gazed o'er Africa's sky,
The vulture only made reply.

The fiery sun went down, the sand
Darkened beneath the foot
Of midnight, in a stranger land
That generous heart grew mute:
And, oh! will dim oblivion send
Her pall of silence o'er his head?
No!—honest tongues will speak thy praise
In hall and cottage hearth.
For thou hast shed another blaze
O'er thy fair land of birth!
Though death has hushed the million's shout,
He has not struck thy candle out.

'*The Poetical Works of Thomas Campbell*: a new edition.'—Here is an exception to the profusion and fecundity of these scribbling days!—the collected works of some twenty-five or thirty years, included in a single volume! The circumstance struck us as sufficiently strange to deserve a passing comment, in announcing the republication of these well-known poems in an elegant and compendious form; and it is impossible to notice it, without asking our readers, and (more emphatically still) our writers, which of all the showy and fantastic lyrics, their diffuse outpourings, will endure as long as 'Hohenlinden,' 'The Battle of the Baltic,' and 'Ye Mariners of England'?—which of their thousand-and-one love-letters breathes a tittle of the melancholy sweetness and passion of 'O'Connor's Child'?—which of their graver efforts will be remembered when 'The Last Man' is forgotten? They will find, we think, a moral and a warning, in the inevitable answer to these questions.

'*The Anglo-Polish Harp; or Songs for Poland*, (with a preface,) to which are added, *Polynra and other Poems*;' as also *Scenes from Longinus*, (with a postscript,) by Jacob Jones, Esq. Barrister-at-Law, Author of *Thoughts on Prison Labour*, and various other works.—"No critic," says Mr. Jacob Jones, "has a right to condemn 'property,' without producing some specimen of it. Such things must cease to be done, or," &c. Now, as we will not produce any "specimens" of his "property," we shall make no comment on either his Preface, his Poems, or his Postscript. Why will people expose the fullness of their egotism so remorselessly as Mr. Jacob Jones?

'*Standard Novels*.'—Mr. Bentley has lately added some very attractive volumes to this delightful series. One alone contains 'The Alhambra,'—'The Last of the Abencerrages,'—and 'The Involuntary Prophet.' The latest published is 'Anastasiu's.'

'*The American Annual Register for the Year 1832-3*.'—The nature and character of this work will be well understood, when we say that it is a close imitation of our own Annual Register. By far the more interesting portion to Englishmen is the local history, which contains some curious and interesting information.

List of New Books.—The Book of Common Prayer, with Prayers for Families, on the most important Affairs of Life, by the Rev. S. Piggot, 4to. 6s. 2s.; bd. 3s. 6d. The Portrait of the Church of England, by the Rev. H. D. C. S. Horlock, M. A. 18mo. 4s. 6d.—The Young Christian, by Jacob Abbott. 32mo. plates, 2s.—History of Wesleyan Methodism in Halifax, by G. U. Walker, 12mo. 4s.—Kelly's Hymns, new edit. royal 32mo. 4s. 6d.—Life of the Rev. Henry Tanner, by Dr. Dawker, 18mo. 3s.—Butt's Gleamings in Poetry, 1st series, 12mo. 7s. 6d.—Lucy Linwin, 18mo. 1s. 6d.—Southey's Cowper, Vol. IV. royal 18mo. 5s.—Historical Sketches of Spain and Portugal, Vol. II. 18mo. 3s. 6d.—Library of Anecdotes, (Book of Table Talk), Vol. I. 12mo. 6s.—Chamber's Educational Course, (Introduction to the Sciences), 12mo. swd. 10d.; cl. 1s.; roan, 1s. 9d.—Corrall's Edition of Johnson and Walker's Dictionary, diamond edit. roan, 3s.; embossed, 3s. 6d.; Morocco, 5s.—Anecdotes, (The Family Circle), 16mo. 2s. 6d.—Zumpt's Latin Grammar, 4th edit. 8vo. 10s. 6d.—Cicero de Natura Deorum, with notes, by T. Allan, royal 12mo. 6s.—Gibson's Manual of the Law of Fictures, 12mo. 3s. 6d.—Riddle's First Sundays at Church, 6s. 8vo. 3s. 6d.—Halifax on the Civil Law, by Gildart, demy 8vo. 8s. 6d.—Gleig's History of England, Vol. II. 8s. 6d.—Paley's Natural Theology, with illus. and notes, by Lord Brougham, and Sir Charles Bell, 2 vols. 8vo. 31s.—Scriptural Vindication of Church Establishments, by the Rev. G. Holden, 8s. 7s. 6d.—Girdlestone's (Rev. C.) Twenty Parochial Sermons, 3rd series, on particular occasions, 12mo. 5s. 6d.—Paris and the Parisians in 1835, by Francis Trollope, 2nd edit. plates, 2 vols. demy 8vo. 32s.—Bonrienne's Life of Buonaparte, 4 vols. demy 8vo. 30s.—Hill's Deep Things of God, 32mo. new edit. 1s. 6d.—Lectures on the Lord's Prayer, 32mo. new edit. 1s.—Scriver's Remembrance, new edit. 32mo. 2s.—Bridge's Scriptural Studies, 6th edit. 18mo. hlf-bd. 1s. 6d.—Las Cases' Exile and Conversations of Napoleon, new edit. 4 vols. 12mo. 20s.—Sibyl Leaves, or Drawing Room Scrap, 34 plates, oblong folio, 20s.—Laborde's Journey through Arabia Petrea to Mount Sinai, 8vo. 18s.—The British Quixotte, or Adventures of Don Popin, 12mo. 4s. 6d.—Simmons's Works, Vol. VI. 8vo. 10s.—The Vindicator, with other Poems, by Lady E. S. Worley, post 8vo. 7s. 6d.—Douglas on the Advancement of Society, new edit. 8s. 4s. 6d.—Clarkson's Researches, Antediluvian, Patriarchal, and Historical, 8vo. 7s.—Lardner's Cyclopædia, Vol. 79, (History of Russia, Vol. I.) 8s.—How to Make Everybody Comfortable, 18mo. 1s. 6d.—The Mountain Decameron, by Joseph Downes, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d.—Gilbert's New Map of the World, sheet, 4s.; case, 6s. 6d.; on roller, 9s.—Russell's Map of London, with guide, new edit. sheet, 1s. 6d.; case, 3s. 6d.; on roller, 6s.; Envisions of London, with guide, new edit. sheet, 1s. 6d.; case, 3s. 6d.; on roller, 6s.

ORIGINAL PAPERS

SIR CHARLES WILKINS.

THE death of the venerable Sir Charles Wilkins, who must be considered as one of the greatest Oriental scholars of his age, which took place on Friday, the 13th instant, imposes on us the necessity of giving some notice of his eminent career; and we have, accordingly, collected a few particulars, for the accuracy of which we can vouch.

Sir Charles was a native of Somersetshire, and was born in the year 1750. He went to Bengal, in the Company's Civil Service, in the year 1770. While aiding in the superintendence of the Company's factories, at Malda, in Bengal Proper, he had the courage and genius to commence, and successfully prosecute, the study of the Sanskrit language, which was, up to that time, not merely unknown, but supposed to be unattainable by any effort of Europeans; and his celebrated translation of the 'Bhagavad Gita' into English, was sent to the Court of Directors, by the Governor General, Warren Hastings, who likewise wrote for it one of the most feeling and elegant dissertations which was ever prefixed to any work. The Court of Directors published and distributed it in 1785, at their own expense. These facts are now only known to few; but the effect which this admirable translation had upon the literary men of Europe, was quite marvellous. All saw in this publication the day-spring of that splendid hope, which has been in part realized by Sir William Jones, Colebrooke, and others;—but this study was not sufficient to employ Mr. Wilkins's active mind. Being possessed of great ingenuity, he, as a relaxation from his more laborious pursuits, prepared, with his own hands, at the solicitation of Warren Hastings, the first set of types, both Bengali and Persian, employed in Bengal. With the Bengali, Mr. Halhed's elegant Bengali Grammar was printed; and, with the latter, Balfour's 'Forms of Herkeru' (a collection of Persian letters, as models for correspondence). Persian and Bengali were, of course, languages with which he was quite familiar. It is a curious fact, that the Company's laws and regulations, translated by Mr. Edmonstone and others, have continued to be printed with those very Per-

sian types cut by Sir Charles. Mr. Hastings was his warm patron, and the strictest friendship continued between them up to Mr. Hastings' death. Sir Charles remained in India about sixteen years. On his return to England, in 1786, he resided at Bath; and, shortly after, he published his translation of the 'Hitopadesa.' In 1800, the Court of Directors, by the recommendation of the late Mr. Edward Parry (brother-in-law to Lord Bexley), resolved to appoint Sir Charles the librarian of the valuable collection of MSS., which had fallen into their possession by the conquest of Seringapatam, and by bequests, &c.; and Sir Charles continued to hold the office till the day of his death. The East India College, at Haileybury, was established in 1805, and the Sanskrit language, being a part of its course of instruction, under the late Alexander Hamilton, the want of a Sanskrit Grammar was strongly felt; and, in consequence, Sir Charles produced, in 1808, his Sanskrit Grammar, which is a model of clearness and simplicity, and which has greatly contributed to the study of this primeval tongue. Richardson's Dictionary of the Persian and Arabic languages being out of print, and the work being called for by the wants of the East India service, as well as of the College, Sir Charles was requested by the booksellers to superintend the new edition, which he enlarged with many thousand words. He also published, in 1815, a list of the roots of the Sanskrit language. At the foundation of the College, in 1805, he was appointed its Visitor in the Oriental Department; and from that time till last Christmas (inclusive), he went down twice every year, without a single exception, and examined the whole of the students in the various oriental languages taught at that Institution. He did the same for the East India Company's Military Seminary. Sir Charles had, while in India, made considerable progress in a translation of the 'Laws of Menu,' but at the request of Sir William Jones, who had set his heart upon the publication of the work, as one connected with his own profession, he lent him his translation as far as it was completed, and ceded to him the honour of publishing that antique work, which, when the age at which it was written is borne in mind, must ever be considered a wonderful effort of early civilization.

Sir Charles's reputation was not merely English, but European; and continental scholars were as familiar with his name and works, as our own are with the most celebrated names at home. Many years ago the Institute of France made him an Associate; and other bodies at home and abroad, including Oxford, conferred honorary distinctions upon him. In 1825, the Royal Society of Literature awarded him the large royal medal, as *Princeps literature Sanscritæ*. Few have had a more enviable lot. Health, fame, and competence, with the devoted attention of an affectionate family, and a wide circle of friends, together with the advantage of a wonderful constitution, made him pass a happier life than falls to the lot of most men. To these causes must be attributed his attaining the great age of eighty-six, without any suffering, except from an attack of influenza, about five years ago. The proximate cause of his death was a cold, which the same insidious complaint seems to have exasperated to such an extent, as to overpower a constitution which might otherwise have carried him on for a few years more; having never been injured in youth by any of those excesses that lay the foundation of premature old age and disease.

Sir Charles was a Fellow of the Royal Society and a member of the Club, which was established by Dr. Johnson, &c. and immortalized by Goldsmith in his poem of 'Retaliation.' This club excludes by one black-ball. It generally contains one celebrated individual in each department of literature and science.

His present Majesty, while conferring honours on those most eminent in literature and science, did not overlook Mr. Wilkins's claim to notice; and, in consequence, about three years ago, conferred on him the honour of knighthood, and the Guelphic order.

Sir Charles's funeral was attended by a large body of private friends, who were anxious to testify their sincere regard and respect for him, by this last tribute to his memory.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

Our paper of this day shows, that there is more than ordinary life in the publishing world, and we have endeavoured to keep pace with it by a double number. Still we are reluctantly compelled to defer a notice of Laborde's visit to the excavated city of Petra, one of the most beautifully illustrated volumes published this season. We hope that we shall be able next week to give a full account of a volume so interesting to biblical students, and to all who take an interest in tracing the great commercial routes of antiquity.

A few new works are announced as forthcoming. Mr. Colburn promises us 'A View of English Literature' by the Viscount de Chateaubriand, and a new prose work by Miss Landon, 'Traits and Trials of Early Life;' and Mr. Jesse is about to add to our already long list of books for the country, by 'Fishing Anecdotes, with Hints for Anglers.' We are also glad to perceive that symptoms of literary activity begin to show themselves in the republics of South America. Don Pedro de Angelis, of Buenos Ayres, announces that he is preparing for the press a collection of unpublished documents relating to the history and geography of South America, comprising accounts of the Missions in Paraguay and among the Patagonians. He is to begin with the 'Argentina' of Ruiz Diaz de Guzman, a writer who lived not far from the time of the first discovery of the Rio de la Plata, and of whose work Azara, a very competent judge, speaks in terms of warm commendation. After that, is to follow the Journey of D. Luis Cruz to the Rio Negro and Colorado. From what we have seen of Spanish-American MSS. of more recent date, we have no doubt that the promised publication will prove extremely valuable.

The exigencies of the last fortnight have necessarily caused sundry curtailments in space and substance; and, instead of offering a third notice of the *Exhibition at Somerset House*, we are compelled to compress our remarks upon its sculptures into as small a compass as possible: brevity, however, must not be mistaken for indifference. Perhaps the work in which the most ambitious design has been best borne out by performance, is 'The Nymph Ino with the Infant Bacchus,' the back of the nymph sweetly modelled—but Bacchus is too tall, and his countenance something too much idealized, to fulfil the conditions of mythological fable. The most charming thing, however, in the sculpture closet, (for work it assuredly deserves not to be called,) is Mr. C. Westmacott's 'Blue-bell,' an exquisite little *rilievo*, in which are happily mingled the grace of Grecian superstition, with a touch of the fresher fancy which devised and delighted in our own fays and furies. Mr. Baily has one or two graceful and meritorious works: 'The Mother and Child,' and 'A Sleeping Nymph,' in marble, may be mentioned with praise, with (No. 1136.) 'A Portrait of a Child.' Mr. Moore is, as usual, faithful, without being mechanical in his busts. No. 1095, and No. 1104, are among the best of his efforts. *Au reste*, we hope that with increased accommodation for the display of their works, our artists will attempt something of a higher order than is here to be found.

The same cause which has prevented our giving a separate notice of these works in marble, compels us to confine our record of the last three *Antient Concerts* to a corner. Nothing new can be said of the general features of these entertainments: the vocal corps, has, however, on the last three evenings, been enlivened by the presence of Malibran, who is never so admirable, to our thinking, as in the grave and declamatory music of the older school. Ivanoff, too, sang at the fifth Concert, with great success.

We are hardly enough of florists to admire with understanding the mysteries of form and colour in tulips—but we could not but enjoy a beautiful show at Mr. Groom's, Walworth—to which the public have been invited. The varieties seem all but countless: his attention having been principally turned to the perfecting of this one of our oldest garden flowers. And we looked over the gorgeous beds of bloom, (some one has compared them to "growing butterflies,") till we could almost enter into the mania which once possessed the good burghers of Holland; or which must now possess those who give the price of the most valuable specimen—fifty guineas a root.

By the bye, we had nearly forgotten to mention, that a person writing himself *Stokee* has had the kindness to inclose us a ticket for his "Rubens," and a puff of the same, able to blow a soap-bubble into a balloon, if it could hold the inflation. On visiting his wonder of wonders, (from which we were almost deterred by such a brazen appearance of quackery,) we found it not half so great a humbug as we expected. It is a large painting of the species called ornamental; so many of which came from the manufactory of Rubens. His design, composition, and compartion of colouring, are all here; the sole doubt is, whether he had ever a hand on the picture, as we know how much he wrought by proxy. However that may be, there is much of the brutal grandeur and beastly beauty, which this Satyr of the Arts gave to his men figures and women respectively; together with an overteeming richness of embellishment that so well qualified him for a decorator of royal drawing-rooms. The 'Pythagoras,' as it is called, came from a palace of Madrid, whence it was taken by one of those splendid burglars, the Buonapartes—who, we suppose, tired with hawking it from kingdom to kingdom, made it a generous gift to our puffing correspondent. If we are not deceived, it has been at auction before, and run the gauntlet of refusal for some time.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.

The Gallery, with a Selection of PICTURES by ANCIENT MASTERS of the ITALIAN, SPANISH, FLEMISH, and DUTCH SCHOOLS, including two of the celebrated Murillo's, from Marshal Soult's Collection, which His Grace the Duke of Sutherland has most liberally allowed the Directors to exhibit for the benefit of the Institution, is open daily, from 10 in the Morning till 6 in the Evening. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

The THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the SOCIETY of PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS, at their Gallery, PALL MALL EAST, is NOW OPEN.—Open each day from 9 till dusk.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

JUST OPEN, TWO PICTURES, painted by Le Chevalier Bouton. The Subjects are, the VILLAGE of ALAGNA, in Piedmont, and the INTERIOR of the CHURCH of SANTA CROCE, at Florence. The Village is first seen by moonlight, surrounded by its peaked mountains, with a lake in the foreground, formed by the melting of the snow; the lights from the distant houses are reflected upon its surface—the avalanches sweeping from their lofty summits, overwhelm the village. The coming day reveals the scene of desolation; and the simple spire alone remains as evidence of what hath been. The merits of the second Picture, the Interior of the Church of Santa Croce, at Florence, are so well known as to render detail unnecessary;—it exhibits all the effects of light and shade, from noon-day till midnight.—Open from 10 till 5.

PANORAMA, LEICESTER SQUARE.

Shortly will be closed, the favourite VIEW of the ANCIENT CITY of TIBERIS, displaying the venerable Remains of the Grand Temple of Karnac, the Libyan Mountaine, the Nile, and the Great Desert. Also, lately Opened, a VIEW of LIMA, the City of Kings and Capital of Peru, founded by Pizarro, exhibiting all the remarkable Buildings of this celebrated City, accompanied by all the stupendous beauties of nature which surround it.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

May 19.—R. I. Marchison, Esq. V.P. in the chair. M. Brongniart, Foreign Member of the Royal Society, Capt. Chapman, R.A., and David Baillie, Esq. were admitted Members.

The following papers were read: viz. 1. On the application of glass as a substitute for metal balance springs in chronometers, by Messrs. Arnold and Dent, communicated by Francis Beaufort, Esq. Capt. R.N. Hydrographer to the Admiralty. 2. On the valuation of the mechanical effect of Gradients on a line of railroad, by Peter Barlow, Esq. 3. On the connexion of the anterior columns of the spinal cord with the cerebellum, illustrated by preparations of these parts in the human subject, the horse, and the sheep, by Samuel Solly, Esq., communicated by P. M. Roget, M.D. Sec.R.S.

[Abstract of Papers read at previous Meetings of the Society, continued from p. 313.]

"On an artificial Substance resembling Shell; by Leonard Horner, Esq.: with an account of the examination of the same; by Sir David Brewster.

"The author, having noticed a singular incrustation on both the internal and external surfaces of a wooden dash-wheel, used in bleaching, at the Cotton Factory of Messrs. J. Finlay and Co., at Catrine, in Ayrshire, instituted a minute examination of the properties and composition of this new substance. He describes it as being compact in its texture, of a brown colour, and highly polished surface, with a metallic lustre, and presenting in some parts a beautiful iridescent appearance: when broken, it exhibits

a foliated structure. Its obvious resemblance, in all these respects, to many kinds of shell, led the author to inquire into its intimate mechanical structure, and into the circumstances of its formation. He found, by chemical analysis, that it was composed of precisely the same ingredients as shell; namely, carbonate of lime and animal matter. The presence of the former was easily accounted for; as the cotton cloths which are placed in the compartments of the wheel, in order that they may be thoroughly cleaned by being dashed against its sides, during its rapid revolutions, have been previously steeped and boiled in lime water. But it was more difficult to ascertain the source of the animal matter; this, however, was at length traced to the small portion of glue, which, in the factory where the cloth had been manufactured, was employed as an ingredient in forming the paste, or dressing, used to smooth and stiffen the warp before it is put into the loom. These two materials, namely lime and gelatine, being present in the water in a state of extreme division, are deposited very slowly by evaporation; and thus compose a substance which has a remarkable analogy to shell, not only in external appearance, and even pearly lustre, but also in its internal foliated structure, and which likewise exhibits the same optical properties with respect to double refraction and polarizing powers.

"A letter from Sir David Brewster, to whom the author had submitted for examination various specimens of this new substance, is subjoined; giving an account of the results of his investigations of its mechanical and optical properties. He found that it is composed of laminae, which are sometimes separated by vacant spaces, and at others, only slightly coherent; though generally adhering to each other with a force greater than that of the laminae of sulphate of lime, or of mica; but less than those of calcareous spar. When the adhering plates are separated, the internal surfaces are sometimes colourless, especially when these surfaces are corrugated or uneven; but they are almost always covered with an iridescent film of the most brilliant and generally uniform tint, which exhibits all the variety of colours displayed by thin plates of polarizing laminae. This substance, like most crystallized bodies, possesses the property of refracting light doubly; and, as in agate and mother-of-pearl, one of the two images is perfectly distinct, while the other contains a considerable portion of nebulous light, varying with the thickness of the plate; and the inclination of the refracted ray. Like calcareous spar, it has one axis of double refraction, which is negative; and it gives, by polarized light, a beautiful system of coloured rings. It belongs to the rhombohedral system, and, as in the *Chaux carbonatée basée* of Hatty, the axis of the rhombohedron, or that of double refraction, is perpendicular to the surface of the thin plates. As mother-of-pearl has, like arragonite, two axes of double refraction; this new substance may be regarded as having the same optical relation to calcareous spar that mother-of-pearl has to arragonite.

"The flame of a candle, viewed through a plate of this substance, presents two kinds of images; the one bright and distinct, the other faint and nebulous, and having curvatures, which vary as the inclination of the plate is changed: the two kinds being constituted by oppositely polarized pencils of light. On investigating the cause of these phenomena, Sir David Brewster discovered it to be the imperfect crystallization of the substance; whence the doubly refracting force separates the incident light into two oppositely polarized pencils, which are not perfectly equal and similar. In this respect, indeed, it resembles agate, mother-of-pearl, and some other substances; but it differs from all other bodies in possessing the extraordinary system of composite crystallization, in which an infinite number of crystals are disseminated equally in every possible azimuth, through a large crystalline plate; having their axes all inclined at the same angle to that of the larger plate, and producing similar phenomena in every direction, and through every portion of the plate: or this remarkable structure may be otherwise described, by saying that the minute elementary crystals form the surfaces of an infinite number of cones, whose axes pass perpendicularly through every part of the larger plate.

"An examination of the phenomena of iridescence afforded by this new substance, leads him to the

conclusion that the iridescent films are formed at those times when the dash-wheel is at rest, during the night, and that they differ in their nature from the rest of the substance. These phenomena illustrate in a striking manner some analogous appearances of incommunicable colours presented by mother-of-pearl, which had hitherto baffled all previous attempts to explain them; but which now appear to be produced by occasional intermissions in the process by which the material of the shell is secreted and deposited in the progress of its formation."

"*Researches on the Tides. Fifth Series: On the Solar Inequality, and on the Diurnal Inequality of the Tides at Liverpool.* By the Rev. William Whewell.

"The inequality both in the height and time of high water in the morning and evening tides of the same day, which varies according to a law depending on the time of the year, is termed by the author, the *diurnal inequality*, because its cycle is one day. The existence of such an inequality has often been noticed by seamen and other observers; but its reality has only recently been confirmed by regular and measured observations; and its laws have never as yet been correctly laid down. The author gives an account of the observations now in progress at different ports, from which he expects they will be ascertained with great precision. He traces the correspondence of the observations of the diurnal inequality already made with the equilibrium theory; and remarks that the semi-diurnal tides, alternately greater and less, which are transmitted from the Southern Ocean to Liverpool, may be compared to the oscillations of a fluid mass; and that they are augmented by the action of the forces occurring at intervals equal to those of the oscillations. Hence the oscillations go on increasing for a considerable period after the forces have gone on diminishing, and reach their maximum a week after the forces have passed theirs.

"The remaining sections of this paper are devoted to the investigation of the Solar inequalities at Liverpool. By carefully eliminating the Lunar effects, which the author is enabled to do by the aid of the preceding researches, he has determined the approximate circumstances of the Solar correction for the height. He has also obtained evidence of the existence, and some knowledge of the laws of the Solar inequalities of the times; and these inequalities, as thus discovered, are found to exhibit the same general agreement with the equilibrium theory which has been disclosed in all the inequalities hitherto detected. The results of the extensive observations now obtained are sufficiently precise to indicate the defects of our mathematical theories of hydrodynamics; and some of these are pointed out by the author, who remarks that although a short time ago the theory was in advance of observation, at present observation is in advance of theory; which mathematicians are therefore called upon to remodel and perfect.

"The author proceeds to consider the effect of the Moon's declination on the Tides at Liverpool; which, as before observed, it is necessary to eliminate, in order to obtain the Solar inequality; and gives an explanation of various formulae and tables constructed for that object. He then investigates the laws of the solar inequalities, first, as to the heights; and secondly, as to the times of high water at Liverpool by applying to them these methods of calculation."

"*Report of Magnetic Experiments tried on board an Iron Steam-Vessel, by order of the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.* By Edward J. Johnson, Esq., Commander, R.N., accompanied by plans of the vessel, and tables showing the horizontal deflection of the Magnetic Needle at different positions on board, together with the dip and magnetic intensity observed at those positions, and compared with that obtained on shore with the same instruments. Communicated by Captain Beaufort, R.N., Hydrographer to the Admiralty; by command of the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

"This report commences with a description of the iron steam-vessel, the 'Garryowen,' belonging to the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, and built by the Messrs. Laird, of Liverpool. She is constructed of malleable iron, is 281 tons burthen, and draws only 5½ feet water, although the weight of iron in the hull, machinery, &c. is 180 tons.

"This vessel was placed under the directions of

the author, in Tarbert Bay, on the Shannon, on the 19th of October, 1835, for the purpose of investigating its local attractions on the compass. The methods which were adopted with that view are given; together with tables of the results of the several experiments, and plans of the various parts of the Garryowen. The horizontal deflections of the magnetic needle at different situations in the vessel were observed, for the purpose of ascertaining the most advantageous place for a steering compass, and also for the application of Professor Barlow's correcting plate; and the dip and intensity in these situations were, at the same time, noted.

"An experiment is detailed, showing that where several magnetic needles, freely suspended, were placed upon the quay, in Tarbert Bay, and the vessel warped from the anchorage towards them, first with her head in that direction and then with her stern, opposite deflections were produced: in the first case all the needles showing a deviation to the eastward, and in the latter to the westward, of the true magnetic meridian.

"Considering the height of the general mass of iron in the vessel and also that of the head and stern, together with the distance (169 feet) at which some of the needles indicated a deviation, the author concludes that the respective deflections were caused by the magnetic influence of the iron in the vessel; the combined effect of that about the bows representing the north pole of a magnet, and that about the stern a south pole. He then offers several suggestions for future observation on this subject, and connected with the little oxidation that is reported to have taken place in the vessel.

"The experiments having been interrupted by a continuance of wet and stormy weather, the author proceeds to draw the following general practical conclusions, deduced from the series of observations already made, and points out the further experiments which he considers necessary to be tried.

"1st. The ordinary place for a steering-compass on board ship is not a proper position for it in an iron steam-vessel.

"2nd. The binnacle-compass in its usual place on board the Garryowen is too much in error to be depended upon.

"3rd. In selecting a proper position for a steering-compass on board iron steam-vessels, attention should be paid to its being placed, as far as is practicable, not only above the general mass of iron, but also above any smaller portions of iron that may be in its vicinity; or such portions of iron should be removed altogether.

"4th. The steering-compass should never be placed on a level with the ends either of horizontal or perpendicular bars of iron.

"5th. The extreme ends of an iron vessel are unfavourable positions, in consequence of magnetic influences exerted in those situations. The centre of the vessel is also very objectionable, owing to the connecting rods, shafts, and other parts of the machinery belonging to the steam-engine and wheels, which are in continual motion; independently of the influence exerted by the great iron funnel in this part of the ship.

"6th. No favourable results were obtained by placing the compass either below the deck, or on a stage over the stern.

"7th. It was found that at a position 20½ feet above the quarter-deck, and at another 13½ feet above the same level, and about one-seventh the length of the vessel from the stern, the deflections of the horizontal needle were less than those which have been observed in some of His Majesty's ships.

"The author proceeds to point out various methods of determining, by means of a more extended inquiry, whether the position above indicated, or one nearer to the deck, is that at which the steering-compass would be most advantageously placed.

"The concluding section contains an account of some observations made by the author on the effects of local attraction on board different steam-boats, from which it appears that the influence of this cause of deviation is more considerable than has been generally imagined; and he points out several precautions which should be observed in placing compasses on board such vessels."

[To be continued.]

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

May 23.—Francis Baily, Esq., V.P., in the chair. —Extracts were read, from 'Observations made during a Voyage along the East Coast of Africa, performed in 1811, by the East India Company's cruizers, *Ternate* and *Sylph*, commanded by Captain Smee and Lieutenant Hardy, I.N.:' a MS. not yet published, and communicated by the Bombay Branch Society. The chief interest of the evening was, however, derived from the presence of M. Ruppel, the distinguished Ethiopian and Abyssinian traveller, and of Mr. Waldeck, lately arrived from Central America; the latter of whom exhibited a large collection of beautiful drawings of American antiquities, made by him at Palenque, and elsewhere, in Mexico and Central America.

The extracts read, related to the population and political state of Zanguebar; and their interest is enhanced by the rapid progress making by this port and island in trade and civilization, under the liberal government of its present sovereign, the reigning Imam of Muscat. This progress will, doubtless, affect the minute accuracy now, of statements referring to 1811; yet those which we proceed to notice, are not, probably, materially inaccurate even yet:—

"The population of the island consists of Arabs, of native Souallees, and of a mixed race between them. The Arabs are not very numerous, compared to the others, but the principal part of the slaves and landed property belongs to them. A few Indian Banians are also settled in the town; but they can scarcely be said to compose a class in the population. They are all engaged in trade. The Souallees are the most numerous, but they are chiefly slaves. The Arabs make much better masters than the mixed class, and not unfrequently, emancipate their slaves when they become Mohammedans. Some of them possess as many as eight or nine hundred, who are usually bought at some distance, and arrive in caravans for sale. The manner in which they are exposed at this time for inspection is extremely disgusting; but, once purchased and settled, their lot is not unhappy, in proof of which they increase their numbers rapidly. They are employed in tillage, and domestic service. In 1811 their number considerably exceeded 100,000, and was above half that of the whole population.

"The Souallees are now considered a native tribe; but they are reported to have originally sprung from an intermixture between the Arabs of the coast, and the Galla of the interior. They are extensively distributed from the Equator to about the parallel of Mozambique; the Souallees, who are a distinct people, coming in to the north of them, and occupying the coast, and a part of the interior, to nearly the confines of Abyssinia. The Gallas are entirely confined to the interior: behind the Souallees they are called Carratche-Galla; further north, Borran-Galla; but whether this indicates a division of race or tribe, or merely a difference of location, is uncertain. The Souallees, though believed to be a mixed race, more closely resemble the Negro family than the Souallees; the latter are also more slender in their make, more active and intelligent. It is believed, that they maintain a trading communication with very remote points of interior Africa.—(As we understood M. Ruppel afterwards,—not impossibly even with the Soudan.)

"The soil of the greater part of the island of Zanguebar, and of the main coast for some distance behind it, is light and sandy; but the interior of both is rich and fertile. The climate is considered unhealthy, but the habits of the people are so filthy, that its real character in this particular can scarcely be determined. It is subject to alternate wet and dry seasons, the former being, as usual, the unhealthy one, though high winds then generally prevail, which are well calculated to carry off miasma. The supplies to be obtained at the port were not, in 1811, considerable, and consisted of very fine fruits and other vegetables, beef, poultry, a little rice, and ghee, or butter;—we believe, that in this respect it has since much improved, and is still improving. Asses and camels are the chief beasts of burthen: horses have been repeatedly imported by the Arabs, but do not live."

M. Ruppel, having been invited to offer observations on the above paper, first stated his conviction, that the unhealthiness attributed in it to Zanguebar,

arose exclusively from the use of bad water for drinking, at the particular periods alluded to. He had himself been in the most unhealthy districts of Abyssinia—Massowah, in particular—for months together, at all seasons, and constantly found his state of health vary, not with the season or climate, but with the greater or less care which he took about the water he drank.—(In this observation he was also confirmed by Mr. Waldeck, from his experience in America; and it was observed, that a similar statement was made in a paper by Lieutenant Wellsted, I.N., just published in the Society's Journal.) With regard to the Gallas, M. Ruppel continued, the author of the paper read seemed to consider them Negroes; but this was certainly a mistake, as they exactly resemble the Caffers, near the Cape of Good Hope, being dark, nearly black, with curled but not woolly hair, broad but not flat noses, large mouths, but not projecting lips or chin. Their ferocity he also considered exaggerated in the usual descriptions of them: he had never, himself, experienced any material difficulty in travelling among them, and, in his last journey, he had been considerably to the south of Lake Dembea. He bore a willing testimony to the general accuracy of Mr. Bruce's descriptions of Abyssinia, though there might be exaggeration in some of the incidents related by him. In particular, he was undoubtedly correct in the great elevation assigned by him to the central plain of Abyssinia, which exceeds 8,000 feet, and the peaks of Semen rise to above 14,000. He (M. Ruppel) believed, that it would be possible to follow the steps of the early Jesuits, and reach Magadash, or some other port on the east coast of Africa, from Abyssinia. He had no doubt, also, of the substantial accuracy of the descriptions given of this route by Alvarez and others—particularly as regarded the abrupt, almost precipitous, descent to the south, from the plain of Abyssinia. The country is generally volcanic in its character, and its northern face is not less precipitous.

Mr. Waldeck afterwards offered a few observations on the remains of early American civilization, which his drawings on the table represented. Beyond all question they were of very high antiquity; and on the top of one he had himself cut down a tree, the concentric circles in a section of which indicated a growth of 973 years, and the building must have been a ruin when it first took root. The sculpture on these buildings was still extraordinarily perfect; and he believed that he had found a key to the hieroglyphics introduced in it, which proved them to have a phonetic power. He was not prepared, at the moment, to go into the subject at length, but he had materials with him for several publications on it, which he considered of great interest; and having devoted thirteen years, and above 8000*l.* to the collection of these materials, he was prepared to make still further sacrifices in order to bring them advantageously before the public. He meant very shortly to publish a prospectus of his intended work, and to solicit subscriptions to it. He would engrave the drawings himself, in order to keep down its expense.

Colonel Galindo, of the Central American service, offered some remarks on the high antiquity of American civilization. He was disposed to consider even the ruins described by Mr. Waldeck as comparatively of modern date; and he thought that the decay of the Native American tribes indicated senility, and the activity of the Caucasian race youth, to a degree which might almost warrant the belief that America was the first, rather than the last peopled quarter of the globe. He admitted that these opinions appeared visionary when thus stated without the grounds on which they otherwise rested; yet they were the result of much study and reflection on his own part, and he was strongly convinced of their substantial accuracy.

Thanks were voted to the above gentlemen, as also to the Bombay Branch Society, for their several communications. The meeting did not separate till a late hour.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 25.—Mr. Lyell, President, in the chair.—The following communications were read:—

1. A paper, by Mr. Alfred Cloyne Austen, containing a general account of the structure of Devonshire between the Ex and Berry Head. The oldest

formation of the district was stated to consist of dark slates, sometimes arenaceous, succeeded, first, by quartzose conglomerates, and afterwards by alternations of shale and limestone, rich in organic remains. During the deposition of these rocks, the author is of opinion, that there were igneous irruptions, as beds of trap alternate with the shale, without producing any alteration in the adjacent strata; and as, in some instances, contorted beds are overlaid by others of the same class, which are not disturbed. To the subsequent breaking up of these formations, the author ascribed the origin of the pebbles, which occur in the new red sandstone of the district. The green sand of Haldon was briefly described, and Mr. Austen infers from its thickness, that it once extended much further to the westward; and he is of opinion, that the preservation of these insulated patches is due to their great elevation, which protected them from the action of the waves that denuded the surrounding, but lower, districts.

The protrusion of Dartmoor was assigned to a period subsequent to the green sand and cretaceous era, as the first traces of granite debris occur in the Bovey deposit.

2. A notice, by Mr. Murchison, on fossils, agreeing specifically with well-known shells of the lias of Lyme Regis, but procured by Admiral Sir Charles Buller at Westbay, Fernando Po, Accra, and Sierra Leone. They were stated to occur abundantly; and it was announced, that additional information respecting them may shortly be expected. The specimens were presented by Mr. Leach, of Milford Haven. Mr. Murchison also announced, that Sir John Herschel had discovered to the north of the Cape of Good Hope, a formation containing Trilobites.

3. A notice on Maria Island on the east coast of Van Dieman's Land, by Mr. Frankland, Surveyor General of that colony, and communicated by Robert W. Hay, Esq. Under Secretary of State.

Maria Island consists principally of trap, but at the northern point is a perpendicular cliff from 200 to 500 feet high, of horizontal beds of dark grey limestone, formed of oysters, muscles, and other shells, in perfect preservation. Mr. Frankland also mentions, that Van Dieman's Land furnishes, in every part, strong evidence of the ocean having once occupied a much higher level than at present.

4. A letter from Mr. James Robinson Wright to Capt. Mudge, accompanying a quarter-sheet of the Ordnance Map coloured geologically. The district is situated to the S.W. of Daventry, including about 168 square miles, and the boundaries of the red marl, lias, and inferior oolite, are carefully defined.

5. A notice, by Sir Philip Grey Egerton, Bart., on the occurrence of marine shells in a bed of gravel at Norley Bank, Cheshire.—The pit, in which these shells, apparently recent, were obtained, is situated on the north side of a hill, 157 feet above low water mark at Weston Point on the Mersey, and six miles from it. The pit is eighteen feet deep, and consists of irregular beds of pebbles, clay, and sand, associated with boulders of granite and other rocks. The shells obtained by Sir Philip Egerton occurred towards the middle of the section, but were too imperfect to have their specific characters determined. The deposit is considered by the author to be of the same age with one from which he procured similar remains at the Willington, near Tarporley, though the elevation of the two localities differs considerably.

6. A paper, by Mr. Louis Hunton, and communicated by Mr. Royle, on the distribution of organic remains in the Upper Lias Shale, and Marlstone of the Yorkshire coast. The object of the author was to point out the fossils which characterize the different strata, and diminish in number, or vary in size, on receding from the bed which he conceives is essentially distinguished by them. The data on which the author reasoned had been carefully collected by himself at the localities mentioned in the memoir, not from subsided masses on the shore, but from undisturbed portions of the cliffs.

Lists of the characteristic fossils accompanied the paper.

7. A letter, from Mr. Fitch, of Norwich, to Mr. Charlesworth, on the discovery, at Thorpe, near

Norwich, of a tooth of the *Mastodon angustidens* in the bottom bed of crag, resting upon chalk, and composed chiefly of large flints associated with crag shells. This discovery is of interest, and confirms Mr. William Smith's previous statement of a similar tooth having been found, many years since, at Whittington near Thorpe.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

May 16.—Sir Charles Lemon, Bart. M.P., President, in the chair. The following paper was first read:—"Observations on the means of collecting information on various points of Statistics, explanatory of a proposition for the appointment of a Committee 'to consider the expediency of opening books for the contemporary record of various statistical facts, and to prepare the forms in which such books shall be kept.'" By the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, V.P.

The practical importance of this communication induces us to give a very full abstract of its contents. The writer began by stating, that, in considering the subject, it had often occurred to him, that much valuable statistical information is to be found in the ordinary paths of life, if we will only gather it in time; but which, if not promptly and systematically collected, may, in a few years, be altogether lost. It was, he observed, almost ludicrous to think how much doubt and debate among philosophers could probably be settled by the most ignorant peasant or humblest artisan, if the dead of a thousand years were summoned back to life! Every one, he thought, who has attempted to prosecute statistical inquiries relative to past ages, must have been struck with the difficulty of getting, fully and accurately, for any considerable series of years, information relating to things which, at the time of their occurrence, were known to all the world. Even when the desired particulars have been preserved, the search for them is generally troublesome and laborious, and the authority often of doubtful value, because recorded without method.

The writer considered it unnecessary to dwell upon the value of the information which has been lost to us by the want of contemporary record. We might however estimate it by the importance we attach to the fragments that remain. Now, (he continued,) we shall be in our turn ancients; and although we may not be sanguine in estimating the probable success of any attempt to anticipate and satisfy the inquiries of posterity, (the prodigious power of printing notwithstanding,) yet the effort can scarcely fail to have some beneficial result, and a majority of us may hope to live long enough to profit by our labours. Nor must we neglect things merely because they are to be found already recorded. The Statistical Society should endeavour to give easy access to what is now difficult. For these reasons he suggested that the Society should consider how it should best provide against, and supply, that dearth of knowledge touching facts "calculated to illustrate the condition and prospects of society" which we all deplore in relation to past ages. The question was, on what principle, and with what view, such contributions should be sought or offered? In reply, the author submitted generally, that the main object should be, to do for posterity what we wish our ancestors had done for us, or in other words, realize the probable wishes of the men of the year 2000. There is (he observed) much to be done in the examination and arrangement of public documents, with a view to facility of reference and of comparison for extended periods, or, what is more important, for the correction, while it is yet time, of errors arising from accident, or from various statements nominally identical, but really prepared on different principles. Nothing, it was suggested, required to be watched more jealously than the deductions of political arithmetic; though the precision with which they are stated naturally leads to the too easy admission of their accuracy; and whoever has the opportunity of testing the accuracy of such statements, would do good service in bringing to notice any incorrectness he may discover in them. Some tests may be applied without going beyond the statements themselves—such as the comparison of the aggregates of different items belonging to the same subject-matters, or the balancing of accounts which ought to admit of such

adjustment; yet these are sometimes sufficient to indicate important errors or omissions.

Other tests would readily occur, varying according to the subject-matter; and, while we necessarily take facts as we can get them, not postponing practical advantages in the pursuit of unattainable perfection, it was recommended that our principle should still be such a perpetual scepticism as may prevent us from omitting any proper opportunity of verifying important statements, or of testing the truth of general deductions. Returning, however, to the more immediate purpose of his paper, the writer proceeded to observe, that if we act upon the principle of seeing that all statistical facts are preserved which it is likely posterity will desire to know regarding the past and present times, the Society will find much matter to be added to that which the records of the public offices supply. With this view, Mr. Mackenzie suggested, that it would be useful to open a set of registers for the following matters, and to invite societies and individuals, in various parts of this and other countries, to do so likewise—it being of course to be understood, that the authority shall in all cases be stated—viz.

Prices of all articles—wholesale and retail.
Wages of labour, skilled and unskilled, with notices of its efficiency.
Average earnings of labourers.
Prices of piece work.
Salaries of office.
Fees of official and professional men.
Costs of education in schools and colleges.
Weights and measures.
Weight and standard of coins, with notices of mint laws.
Relative value of gold and silver in coin and in bullion.
Interest of money—loans—discounts—with notices of maximum.
Prices of stock.
Dividends and market value of shares in Banks and other Joint Stock Associations.
Bank issues and deposits.
Exchanges.
Insurances.
Rates of carriage—by land—by water—for goods—for persons—with notice of usual time of transport.
Details of arrangement in successive years for individual farms.
Income and expenditure of different classes—wealthy—comfortable—poor.

He offered the above detail chiefly to make his meaning clear, and to show the scope of the proposal he had submitted. It was by no means necessary that all should be attempted at once; but, if the thing were commenced systematically, it would, he thought, proceed with little or no effort, and, for some of the items, a few sheets of paper might serve for a century. He rightly considered, that there could be no hope of succeeding with the general scheme of the Society, if its members suffered themselves to be appalled by the magnitude of the work before them. Mr. Mackenzie observed, that although he had chiefly adverted to the collection of facts as they now exist, or may hereafter arise, he did not mean to exclude or undervalue contributions from ancient stores; and he quoted a passage from Hallam's 'History of the Middle Ages,' on the importance of accurate information as to the relative values of money, and suggesting the construction of a table, by which all changes in the value of money should be measured. Such a work Mr. Mackenzie considered that the Statistical Society should labour to supply, and did not doubt that they might obtain, from private channels, means of accomplishing it. Things brought together for partial or temporary purposes, were frequently, he observed, of general and permanent interest. Thus the Chronicon Pretiosum, so often quoted, is said to have been written for the purpose of proving, that a College Statute, passed between the years 1440 and 1450, by which Fellowships were to be vacated on the acquisition of an estate of 5*l.* per annum, might be legitimately evaded. The Parliamentary proceedings of later days abound in statistical materials, which the Society must endeavour to turn to account. The author then entered into some further details, having reference to the manner in which the plan here suggested should be reduced to practice. In stating prices, for instance, the qualities of the articles should, as far as possible, be defined. In regard to wages, care should be taken to distinguish the different conditions under which the labourer is employed, in order that the hire received by him at different periods may not be confounded

with his ordinary earnings, or assured annual wages; while it would not be less important, in another view, to notice the efficiency of the labour itself, nothing being less satisfactory than to pass unnoticed the circumstances which add to the power of the labourer. Thus, said Mr. Mackenzie, when we observe the exceedingly low wages of our Indian servants and workmen, it is no more reasonable to infer, that labour is proportionately cheap in that country, than it would be to assume, that we could always economize the operations of the manufacturer or farmer by employing children in preference to men. With the effects of machinery, he continued, all are familiar; but the differences arising from other causes are also important. Thus, in ship-building, speaking from recollection, the efficiency of the European, as compared with the Bengalee, had been stated as 6 to 1, the tools employed being the same—the Chinaman as 3 or 4 to 1. So, in other trades, the multitude of persons to be employed, or the length of time spent in producing a given effect, would be found to outweigh, or nearly counterbalance, the most remarkable differences of rate. The effect of machinery in agriculture, though less striking than in manufactures, was considered to be no less worthy of remark—it was, perhaps, even more important to the mass of mankind, as influencing the cost of labour at which food is to be procured; and few things could be more interesting than such a comparison of agricultural operations in remote ages, or in distant countries, in different stages of civilization, as would show clearly the labour expended in producing a given result, and the relative efficiency of the labourers, of which the money prices of their produce afford no certain criterion. The author thought it the more desirable to notice this subject, because there seems reason to believe that an inadvertence to it is one of the causes of the comparatively slow interchange of agricultural improvements.

After a few cursory remarks respecting currency and exchanges, Mr. Mackenzie adverted to the great value of details regarding the management of individual farms, regularly recorded for successive years, and he was of opinion that in no other way could we really trace the progress of agriculture, or fully understand its state in different countries. He understood that accounts of rentals of the time of the Protectorate were to be had in Scotland, connected with the settlement of tithe in that country, assumed to have been generally equal to one-fifth of the rent, the latter being taken as equivalent to half of the titheable produce; and he had been informed that the ratio of the rents of that time to those of the present day, is very frequently found to be as one to twelve. In considering the income and expenditure of different classes, it struck the author that we are too apt to confine our inquiries to the poor. Now, he thought the condition of the poor must be greatly influenced by the habits of the rich; and as these change with the progress of society, and materially influence that progress, he could not be wrong in considering, that statements which should exhibit the objects on which the wealth of the higher orders in different countries and in different times is employed, would form a legitimate and highly important, as well as interesting branch of that knowledge, which it is the purpose of the Statistical Society to procure. He felt the more interest in this head of inquiry, because the country with which he had been long and happily connected (India), affording us the opportunity of calling up the forms of remote ages in the contemplation of the present, might probably present many curious and important views of social life.

Mr. Mackenzie concluded by suggesting, that the whole subject should be considered by a committee. The Society would find in different publications, various tables relating to the most important heads, from which it could scarcely choose amiss; the main point being the clear expression of all that was desired to be recorded; and the first thing to be settled, seemed to him to be the matter to be collected, the sources of information to be sought, and the periods and places to be distinguished. Lastly, he observed, that although it is not the business of the Society to maintain or impugn general theories, its duty in regard to them being simply to collect and arrange the facts from which

they may be constructed, and by which they ought all to be tried, yet it seemed to him to be scarcely possible to distinguish what is worthy of preservation, or to determine how the Society's acquisitions shall be arranged, without some advertence to the general principles discussed by theoretic reasoners.

A second paper was read, entitled, 'Observations on an improved system of Farm Book-keeping, as practised by the proprietor of two farms, near Edinburgh, accompanied with an abstract of the annual produce and expenses of those farms, from the year 1825 to 1833,' by Alexander Trotter, Esq.—The writer began with citing a paragraph from Blackwood's 'Quarterly Journal of Agriculture,' which he considered deserving of attention, from a fact being asserted of great importance to the agricultural community, viz., "that while all their competitors in productive industry have lowered the expenses of production in the several branches of it to which they have directed their energies, the agriculturists alone have not done so,—have, indeed, not only failed to reduce the expenses incidental to the cultivation of their land, but have greatly increased them."

Though it would be beyond the scope of the Statistical Society to examine into the adequacy of the causes referred to, to account for the deviation, in this case, from the common rule; yet the author considered that it was peculiarly within its province to ascertain whether the assertion be true; and the object of the present paper was merely to assist in determining the question. The facts submitted consisted of the results shown by a set of farm-books kept since the year 1825, on two farms situated near Edinburgh, each containing 170 acres. These results were exhibited in a tabular form, which had been arranged with great care, and exhibited, in addition to an account of the expenses incurred on each farm, a statement of the produce raised, and of the prices obtained for each description of crop, from the year 1825 to the year 1833, inclusive. It was shown, by a reference to the tables, that, in the case of neither of the farms, the localities of which, however, widely differed, had any regular or considerable increase in the expenses taken place. On one of them, for example, the expenses in the year 1825 amounted to 117*l.* 6*s.*; while, on the average of nine years, the annual expense had been 121*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, showing an increase only of about three per cent. Even here, however, there had not been a permanent or constant increase, as the average for the whole time had been unduly raised by the circumstance of the farm having been taken into the owner's own management in the year 1825, when in a state that required a considerable extra expenditure to bring it into proper order, and which raised the outlay during each of the three following years. In 1829, the expenses had again fallen to a fraction below what they had been in 1825. In the two following years they were still lower. In 1832 they rose again, but were still below the average; and in 1833 they fell to about twelve per cent. below the average, being the minimum of the nine years. It was readily admitted that the experience on so small a farm, during the comparatively short period of nine years, could scarcely be referred to with confidence, to establish any conclusive result on the subject under consideration. Still the author was of opinion, that, from the mode adopted in the construction of the tables referred to, they contain essentially the principle on which this question may be best solved; and he wished it to be understood, that it was from this consideration, more than from the importance of the results shown, that he thought it might be useful to draw the attention of the Society to them, and more especially to the means which had been employed to collect and methodize the information now laid before it; as the subject having long been the peculiar study of the gentleman who organized the system of the books whence the abstracts were taken, he felt that he might confidently offer them as a guide to others, who may have a larger field to work upon. The importance of this, Mr. Trotter observed, would be sufficiently apparent, if it be considered how difficult it is to obtain accurate information on the subject from those practically engaged in agricultural pursuits. This, it was believed, arose from the circumstance of few farmers introducing a sufficiently accurate

classification into their accounts, to enable them to distinguish those expenses on a farm during any one year, which are *necessary and constant*, from those which are *accidental only*; while still fewer are able to keep distinct those expenses which properly belong to any one year, from those which, in reality, should either be included as a charge on the crop of the preceding year, or be carried forward, and included as a charge on the crop of the following year. Hence, a little consideration would show that a system of farm book-keeping, to be really of service to the cause of Statistics, ought to provide for the distribution of the current expenses of a farm over a period of at least three years. But if the professional farmer is seldom competent to supply accurate data to the statistician, the gentleman farmer, unless thoroughly acquainted with accounts, is liable to fall into a still more serious error, by mixing up with expenses properly chargeable to his farm, those incurred from improvements on his estate, or even in the embellishment of his grounds. It was thus evident that, from any system of accounts which does not exclude these two sources of error, a collector of statistical facts might, without great care, draw many inferences on which no perfect dependence ought to be placed, or become the recorder of facts which would have a tendency to mislead rather than to convey useful information.

As it would have occupied too much time to point out in detail the means which are made use of in the books from which the abstracts referred to were taken, to classify the expenses of the farm, Mr. Trotter contented himself with remarking generally, in regard to the distribution of the expenses incurred in any one year, over the three crops which share in the benefit of the expenditure, that the distribution is chiefly necessary with respect to that portion of the expenses which arises from the employment of labour.

It was shown, by an examination into the detail of one year of the accounts of one of the two farms before alluded to, that 5-13ths only of the sum expended in the wages of day labourers was really spent on the farm attached to the house grounds. Now, as this is a proportion that could not be guessed at, and which will never remain for two years the same, the author justly observed, that it was only by a most accurate classification of such expenses, that any degree of information worth recording could be obtained; and yet without method the difficulty attending the abstracting of a complicated account, would be so great as to deter most people from attempting it, especially if it had to be delayed till the end of the year.

It was from the peculiar fitness of the forms submitted, which *affect the abstract from day to day*, that attention was thus wished to be drawn to them as a powerful instrument for the attainment of information on a most important branch of statistical inquiry.

Besides the forms, which were accompanied by very clear directions for their use, Mr. Trotter submitted to the inspection of the meeting, the original set of books from which his numerical data had been abstracted; and it is an interesting fact, as furnishing a proof of their simplicity, that they had been regularly kept by a *young female*, the daughter of the overseer of the estate; while certainly, the manner in which the task was performed, would have done credit to a far more experienced accountant.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

THE consideration of the Report of the new Standard Scale of the Society, drawn up at the request of the council, by F. Baily, Esq., occupied the attention of the members of the Society for three several evenings. We indeed, consider it of such general public interest, that we shall give a full abstract.

"Mr. Baily commences with a short history of the standard measures of this country: and it evidently appears that although by Magna Charta it is declared that there shall be an uniformity of weights and measures throughout the realm, yet the legislature has not been able, *even at the present day*, effectually to accomplish this object; one principal cause of which is the loose manner in which the various acts of parliament have been framed. The *standard* is indeed often alluded to, but without being defined,

or even identified; and any yard measure, that had been stamped at the Exchequer (in which process no great pains were taken or required), was considered a legal standard.

"In the year 1742 the subject assumed a more scientific and proper shape, for it appears that 'some curious gentlemen, both of the Royal Society of London, and of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris (thinking it might be of good use, for the better comparing together the success of experiments made in England and in France,) proposed, some time since, that accurate standards of the measures and weights of both nations, carefully examined and made to agree with each other, might be laid up and preserved in the archives both of the Royal Society here, and of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris: which proposal having been received with the general approbation of both those bodies, they were pleased to give the necessary directions for carrying the same into effect. In consequence of which, Mr. George Graham did, at their desire, procure from Mr. Jonathan Sisson two substantial brass rods, well planed and squared, and of the length of about 42 inches each, on which he laid off, with the greatest care, the length of 3 English feet from the standard yard kept at the Tower of London. These two rods were then sent over to the Royal Academy of Sciences, who in like manner set off thereon the measure of the Paris half-toise: and having kept one of them, as previously agreed on, returned the other to the Royal Society. Some objection, it seems, was made to this proceeding, inasmuch as the measure was taken from the standard yard at the Tower; whereas the *original and legal* standard had always been considered to be that which was kept at the *Exchequer*. But in answer to this objection, the Royal Society stated that it was not at all their intention to determine what was the *absolute legal length* of the yard, but only to lodge and preserve two measures sufficiently near to what were in common use, and well agreeing with each other, for the purpose of comparing together (by some certain standard to which recourse might be had in either kingdom) those experiments in which such measures might be concerned."

"The standard of length, at the Exchequer, at that time, was a square rod of brass, of the breadth and thickness of about half an inch; the ends neither flat nor parallel: in fact, it is of the rudest description. It was placed there in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

"In the year 1758 the attention of the House of Commons was directed to this subject. A committee was appointed, who presented a very elaborate and interesting Report. They also ordered two new standards to be made by the celebrated Mr. Bird, which were placed in the custody of the clerk of the House of Commons: but no legislative enactment took place relative thereto, until near 70 years afterwards.

"The legislature having thus suffered the subject still to remain in the same doubtful and confused state, it was left to private individuals, whose scientific pursuits required greater accuracy and uniformity than the Government considered necessary for the mere ordinary purposes of life, to follow up the subject, and to place on record some more accurate and uniform standard of their own, than those which are above alluded to. The first who appears to have turned his attention to this subject, for the purposes of science, was the late Sir George Shuckburgh Evelyn, Bart.; who in a paper inserted in the *Phil. Trans.* for 1798, has entered fully into the merits of the case. He had previously caused a brass scale of five feet to be made by Mr. Troughton, which he compared with various other measures of acknowledged or reputed authority, and has recorded the results in the Memoir here alluded to. This scale is well known as Sir George Shuckburgh's scale; and is now in the possession of the Royal Society. But to return to the proceedings of Government on this subject. It seems that nothing whatever was done by them, and that the same ambiguity, doubt, and confusion pervaded the country, till the year 1814; when the investigation was again taken up by the House of Commons; but, as before, without any legislative enactment. In the year 1819 the Prince Regent appointed a Commission, who made three successive Reports on the subject; and in 1824 an

Act of Parliament was passed declaring one of Bird's standards above mentioned to be the legal and *only unit* of measure of extension in this kingdom.

"Mr. Baily then enters into an investigation of the disadvantages attending a *flat scale*, similar to all those which had been hitherto constructed: and considers that many of the anomalies experienced in the comparisons of such scales are to be mainly attributed to this form of construction. It was principally from a consideration of these discordances, and of others afterwards alluded to, as well as from a desire to possess a standard scale of their own that might be appealed to on any important and delicate experiments or operations, that this Society, in the year 1833, resumed the subject; and appointed a Committee to consider the propriety and expediency as well as the best means of carrying the same into effect: and the result has been the construction of a standard scale on a new and improved principle, and which (it is presumed) from its form, its uniform mode of being supported, its accuracy of division, and its means of verification, will be less liable to those sources of error which have too frequently occurred in instruments of this delicate kind. The form adopted by the Committee was that of a *cylindrical tube*, 1-12 inch in its exterior diameter. The thickness of the tube, which is about two-tenths of an inch, is not formed of one piece of metal, but consists of three brass tubes drawn one within the other. The division-lines are cut on palladium pins, inserted in the tube; and the whole scale, when in use, is supported on two rollers, always placed under the same points of the scale. Three thermometers are let into the tube, at equal distances, for the purpose of determining its temperature.

"The first operation was to determine its agreement with the legal standard, or *unit* of measure, at the House of Commons. For this purpose the Committee applied to, and obtained leave of, the Speaker, to have the use of that national standard. Several hundred comparisons of the two measures were made by the different members of the Committee; and although discordances were met with, arising from the ill-defined shape of the dots on the parliamentary standard, yet the results are as satisfactory as the nature of the case would allow; and it may safely be declared, that it is the most complete copy of an original of this kind that ever was taken. This indeed is the more important, as the parliamentary standard has since been destroyed in the disastrous fire that consumed the two houses of parliament in the year 1834. The Committee next proceeded to verify the various subdivisions of the scale; an operation that does not appear to have been attended to, in any previous investigations of this subject. But it was not with the parliamentary standard alone that the Society's scale was placed in comparison: for it was also compared with several other known standards of repute; and more especially with two standards of a similar construction to the present one, formed for the Danish and Russian Governments.

"Besides these, it was likewise compared with the two copies of the French metre, in possession of the Royal Society; but anomalies were here discovered, which are supposed to have arisen partly from our want of information as to the true rate of expansion of the platinum, of which the metres are formed. The expansion of the brass, of which the Society's scale is made, was determined previous to the divisions being laid down thereon; and this method ought to be pursued in all similar cases; since there is no class of experiments where greater accuracy and attention with respect to the expansibility of metals is required than those which relate to standard measures; in fact, the determination of the expansion is as important as the comparison itself.

"Mr. Baily remarks, that in consequence of the destruction of the parliamentary standard, and the uncertainty whether the Government will think proper again to interfere and decide upon the subject, it becomes necessary that the scientific world should agree upon some definite standard to be appealed to on all occasions where great accuracy and precision are required. The important trigonometrical operations which have been carried on in England and Scotland, and which are now in progress in Ireland and in the East Indies, at a great expense to the nation, will lose much of their value if they are not

reduced to some known and permanent standard of measure, comparable with the standards of other countries where similar operations have been performed. The experiments relative to the absolute length of the seconds pendulum require also to be referred to some fixed and invariable measure, in order to be available to any useful purpose. In fact, a great variety of subjects might be adduced where extreme precision and accuracy are requisite, and attainable, not only in measures of length, but also in those of weight and capacity, but where the results are deprived of much of their utility from want of a proper and constant standard of comparison. It is to be hoped that the present New Standard Scale of this Society will tend to remove some, if not the whole, of the inconveniences and evils here alluded to.

"Mr. Bailey closes his report by remarking that persons, desirous of procuring standard measures of length for scientific purposes, must not depend on their accuracy from the circumstance of their having passed the ordeal at the Exchequer; but should rely on the care and judgment of some experienced artist, conversant with the execution of such subjects. The tests and examinations at the Exchequer are intended only as a protection against fraud, in the various branches of trade and commerce: they are approximate only, and so long as the measures are on the right side (that is, not below the standard) there is a latitude allowed for the wear and tear of the instrument: so that a measure, regularly stamped as an authorized copy of the standard, might be totally unfit for the purposes of any minute and delicate investigations. This is not the fault of the officers of the Exchequer, who, doubtless, execute their task in the most faithful and proper manner; but the fact is, that they are not provided with the requisite apparatus for more minute determinations. They have no means whatever of determining the length of a measure *à traits*; neither perhaps could they legally stamp such a measure if requested so to do: and yet this is the only available measure for scientific purposes, more especially where subdivisions of the scale are required. With respect to the measures *à bouts*, which are in fact the only class of measures that come before them, they are put into a matrix or bed, and if the copies fit without any (or very little) shaking, they are impressed with the Exchequer stamp, as true copies of the standard. They have no means however of ascertaining, by any graduated instrument (such as the French *comparateur*), how much the copy differs from the original: neither indeed is such a step required for the major part of the cases that come before them. Mr. Bailey adds, that these remarks are intended not only for the information of scientific persons, but also and more especially for the information of foreign Governments, who occasionally send over to this country for copies of our standard measures; and who are not satisfied unless they bear the regular stamp of the Exchequer; not considering that the very act of stamping a delicate measure destroys its accuracy at once, by the very force of the blow."

A variety of tables of comparisons are appended to the Report.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

May 17.—A paper, by T. A. Knight, Esq., was read, on the supposed absorbent powers of the cellular points, or spongioles, of the roots of trees and other plants. The opinions stated in the above paper confessedly differ materially from those entertained by many physiologists, as regards the functions of the extremities of roots, and they are founded principally on the fact of the spongioles being naturally divested of the principal known matter, by the agency of which the sap is absorbed and transmitted—viz. albumen.

The plants, &c. exhibited were very attractive, on account of their beauty or curiosity, especially the *Succolabium guttatum*, the *Rhodanthe Manglesi*, the *Limonanthus Douglasii*, and the *Chorizanthe* sp. We noticed, also, some very good Muscat grapes, as early as the sweetwater, and ripe before the black Hamburgh varieties, and some specimens of asparagus, from seed sown in 1833. The attention of the meeting was drawn to the model of a very economical and efficient hot water apparatus, which was in full operation at the end of the room.

The award of the judges at the garden exhibition, on the 14th inst., was read, and it was announced, that Banksian and Knightian medals had been this day obtained by Mrs. Lawrence, F.H.S., for the fine plants of Kennedy and Heath, and by Messrs. Chandler, for *Trillium grandiflorum*.

Five gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

TUES.	Institution of Civil Engineers.....	Eight.
WED.	Society of Arts	7 p. Seven.
	Royal Society	8 p. Eight.
TH.	Society of Antiquaries	Eight.
	Zoological Society	8 p. Eight.
FRID.	Royal Institution	8 p. Eight.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

KING'S THEATRE.—Since our last report the entertainments at this theatre have been sufficiently varied, if not novel. 'Otello' was played for the first time a few nights since. The perfect cast of this opera, as it was given last season, being maintained by the substitution of Signor Winter for Signor Ivanoff. In all the parts, which it was out of his power to spoil by coarse and unsteady singing, the opera went off brilliantly. The band is at its best this year: there is a piquancy in its violins, which is rather new to an English orchestra; and the smaller points in the symphonies and accompaniments are taken up with a neatness and an emphasis thoroughly satisfactory:—the chorus is not quite at its worst, but very near it. The new ballet, as we prophesied, is a hit. Carlotta Grisi and Perrot's *Pas galop* is one of the most elegant pieces of opera-dancing we have seen on any stage; and St. Roman's Siberian dance seldom fails to provoke an encore. The music, now, of course, heard to greater advantage than on its first performance, turns out national and stimulating.

CONCERTS OF THE FORTNIGHT.

Our notice of these entertainments, which are this season "unprecedented" in number, was, of necessity, interrupted last week; and we must now be brief, or matters touching "pipe and wire" will occupy a disproportionate space in our columns, for every day brings a perfect *hand* of tickets, and it is difficult to know which card we ought to play. Since our last report, we have attended parts of Mr. Chatterton's *Morning Concert*, with its trio of harps, and its duet between Herz and the *beneficitaire*, which went off brilliantly. We have also passed a pleasant hour at Mr. Kellner's *Soirée*: the scheme of this entertainment was well selected, and its vocal part performed by some of the best of our native singers.—Of these (as the greatest rarity) we may particularize Miss Kemble, who has improved since we last heard her. M. Sedletzek and M. Brizzi gave their *Annual Morning Concert* on Monday week, with a crowded room, the Italian singers, and, between the acts, M. Sudre's exhibition, the best part of which was Moscheles' improvisation; otherwise their scheme embraced no feature of peculiar interest. At the *Fourth Concert of the Societa Armonica*, the selection of music was admirable and sterling; the singers who appeared were Miss C. Novello, Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Horncastle, and Mr. Phillips. Messrs. Mori and Forbes each played a *solo*.

M. Thalberg's *Concert*.—We have now, in some measure, made up our minds as to the merits of this very extraordinary artist, our estimation of whom was heightened by further hearing him on Saturday last. Leaving out of the question his *peculiarities*—his singular force of hand never exaggerated into violence—the mixture of brilliancy and substance in his passages, which we have never heard reached before,—there were quieter and less obtrusive parts of his performance ("small chinks," to follow the adage, "through which extensive prospects may be seen.") which assured us of his excellence, no less certainly, though less loudly, than the more catching individualities to which allusion has been made. In particular, we were struck with the beauty, expression, and independence of his left-hand accompaniment. With regard to the music he played, three fantasias without orchestra, there was, perhaps, some little sameness to be objected to in it. A young writer, however, is scarcely ever self-denying enough to resist introducing in his compositions those *tours de*

force, which establish his claim to original manner: one original thought, however,—one attempt at such creations as Beethoven has uttered by thousands in his immortal works, is better than pages, whether flimsy or learned, merely constructed for the sake of show-off. While, however, we have yet to find such a passage in M. Thalberg's music, (the themes of which are chiefly transplanted from popular operas,) we must give it the praise of sober, careful, and intellectual composition, and express our conviction, that, in the course of time, when he shall be able to forget his two amazing hands a little oftener, he may stand alone among the instrumentalists.

M. Ole Bull's *Concert*.—This was held in the King's Theatre (a bold measure!) on Saturday evening last. The house was well attended by the friends of the artist, who were injudicious enough to attempt the foolery of throwing wreaths on the stage, &c. &c. when his concerto was over. M. Bull will rise superior to this bad taste and *chiarlatanerie*; but we confess the exhibition made us a little splenetic. As a violinist his place is very high; his tone is clear and brilliant, his execution prodigious, and, for the most part, thoroughly finished: many of his passages were written in two and three parts,—one, in particular, with a melody supported by a *tremolando*,—and their extraordinary difficulty surmounted with the utmost ease and skill. With his taste we are less satisfied; his concerto was a thing of shreds and patches—a pattern-card of freaks and fancies; and in his melodies, and all such passages as demand expression, we were pained by an exaggeration of style, of which (we grieve to say it,) Paganini set the example. It is necessary to allude to this, because, unless some check be put upon it—some limit to the wailings, and starts, and intensifications of tone, in which stringed instrument players are beginning to indulge, the estate of music will suffer severely, and we shall have to look back to the more level and less exciting *solos* of the Viotti and Spohr schools with longing and regret.

Philharmonic Society.—The seventh of these Concerts was mis-led by Mr. Weichsell, nor over well conducted by Mr. Bishop. In accompanying the singers, Madame Malibran de Beriot, Miss Masson, and Mr. Machin, the orchestra was more than unsteady—it was incorrect. The first act, again, though opened by Beethoven's imposing *Sinfonia Eroica*, was heavy, from the circumstance of all its pieces, save one, being in the same key. A new septetto, for wind instruments, by the Chevalier Neukomm, was less successful than his former one. In the second act, we had Mozart's *Sinfonia in D*, No. 1, and Beethoven's posthumous Quartet in B flat, played with exquisite neatness by Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, and Lucas: this work is too thoroughly odd (it would be treason to hint the possibility of Beethoven writing anything *unmeaning*) to be comprehended at once; parts of it, however, are of a delicious fantasy. Of the vocal portion of the scheme, we shall only say that Miss Masson sung 'Per pietà,' from 'Cosi fan tutte,' in her usual sound and classical style; and that Madame Malibran falls into a mistake, in endeavouring to make the insipid song of Persiani's characteristic, by introducing extravagancies, which, from any one less gifted, could not be tolerated.

COVENT GARDEN.—Mr. Serjeant Talfourd's tragedy was produced on Thursday night, to a house so brilliantly crowded as to call to mind the aristocratic days of the drama. The length of our remarks in another part of this paper, save us the necessity of entering into its merits or demerits as an acting play. We must observe, however, that we have rarely seen Macready to greater advantage. His acting showed in beautiful contrast with the rant and the rage of the other men on the stage, who tore their dialogue not to shreds, but to tatters. In the last scene with *Clemantine* in particular, this great artist surpassed himself, and was rewarded by such storms of applause as rarely trouble the stagnant atmosphere of an English theatre. Miss Tree, too, was lovely and pathetic in *Clemantine*. The play, which is more effective on the stage than we had anticipated, was, after some delay, given out for repetition on Wednesday next.

MISCELLANEA

Euphrates Expedition.—We have received the Malta Gazette down to the 4th of May. Letters, it appears, had arrived there from officers serving in the expedition, dated the 20th of March. The two steamers were then afloat; the larger, the *Euphrates*, had made a trip up to Bir, and the result was most satisfactory; and it was expected, that Colonel Chesney would be enabled forthwith to commence the descent of the river.

Commerce.—In the *Shipping Gazette* of Monday, the 16th of May, there appeared information respecting the movements of upwards of 5000 vessels, chiefly British.

Public Museums.—Attention has been of late so strongly directed to this subject, that all information relating to the extent and management of those in foreign countries, appears to us likely to interest the reader. We are, therefore, obliged to a correspondent for the following account of those in Holland. At the Hague, there is, 1st, a Gallery of Paintings, which is open to the public every day, and of which there is a printed Catalogue. Pictures are allowed to be copied, but they must not be of the size of the original; a very proper precaution, as it prevents the picture-dealers from increasing their trade in copies but too often substituted by these ingenious persons for originals. 2nd. A Royal Museum of Curiosities, containing an Ethnographical collection, consisting of dresses, implements, &c. of different nations, and abounding in curiosities from China and Japan; together with a Museum of National Antiquities—a department which is still a desideratum at the British Museum. 3rd. The Royal Cabinet of Medals, Coins, and Gems, is placed in one of the apartments of the Royal Library. The silver and bronze medals and coins are kept in cabinets, and are arranged both geographically and chronologically. Those in gold, as well as the engraved gems, are exhibited to the public in glass cases—a plan worthy of being adopted at the British Museum. There are more than 35,000 articles in the Hague collection, and an interesting account of them has been published, by J. C. de Yonge, the keeper, in a small accessible volume. The collection is freely open to the public every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10 till 2 o'clock—an example well worthy of imitation in our national establishment. At Amsterdam, there is a National Museum of Paintings, Statues, &c.; and at Leyden, a noble Museum of Natural History, enriched with numerous collections from the Dutch colonies in the East and West Indies, and the magnificent assemblage of natural objects which formerly belonged to that eminent naturalist, Temminck, who is the director of the establishment. Several travelling naturalists are constantly employed, in searching for the varied treasures of nature in different parts of the world, and in transporting them to the grand repository at Leyden, which, though supported by so small a state as Holland, may bear a comparison with any Museum in Europe. The Archaeological Cabinet contains a splendid collection of Egyptian antiquities, which was purchased of the Swedish consul for 30,000 dollars. It was, like many other fine things, first offered to England, and, of course, rejected. This reminds us of the fact, of Mr. Salt's second collection of Egyptian antiquities being sold to the French government for 10,000. "It would be a great pleasure to me," (says the late Mr. Salt, in a letter to his friend, Mr. Richards), "that this collection should go to England; but no more of dealing with the British Museum; the *Soanes* are the people for me." Another collection, which came into the hands of Mr. Salt's executors, was sold, last August, by Messrs. Sotheby, and produced more than 7,000*l.*; and yet, in the opinion of competent judges, was certainly neither so valuable nor so unique as Mr. Salt's first collection, for which the Museum gave 2,000*l.*, not including the celebrated alabaster sarcophagus, which was purchased by Sir John Soane.

Petrified Tortoise.—Some labourers lately discovered a petrified tortoise on the hill called the Montagne Noir, near Castelnaudry, in the Department du Nord (France). It weighs no less than 170 pounds, and is a foot and a half long, and four feet in circumference. The shell, which is of a yellowish colour, is in very excellent preservation.

Seeds.—Further proof of the continuance of germinating power in seeds, has been received, by the growth of some taken from tombs dated in the time of Marcus Aurelius, and also of Clodwig.

Orange Trees.—A great quantity of apples having been left in an orangery, and suffered to become rotten, the bad air arising from them caused the leaves of all the orange-trees to fall off.

Imperial Treasure of Morocco.—That which is elsewhere the fund of the state, is in Morocco, on the contrary, the personal and absolute property of the reigning monarch. His treasury, called *Beit-ul-mell*, which signifies the abode or chamber of capital or riches, is not a public exchequer, but a hoard gathered in secret, and preserved in a building raised expressly for the purpose in the city of Mekinez, and guarded by two thousand of the negro soldiers. Here, it is estimated, are actually entombed at least fifty millions' worth of Spanish dollars; consisting of jewellery, bars of gold and silver, and coins of the same precious metals, the greater part in doubloons and piastres of Spain and Mexico. The edifice which contains this precious treasure is encompassed by a wall of massive strength and thickness, and covered with a corresponding roof, between each of which are fixed and interwoven bars of wrought iron, the produce of Scandinavia and Biscay; and within this structure is another wall and roof similarly connected. In order to enter the chambers it is necessary to pass five iron doors, each having as many locks, the keys of which are never out of the personal custody of the Sultan, or of the favourite Sultana for the time being. In former times, it was the hideous practice whenever any fresh treasure was placed in this depository, to slay immediately the hapless wretches who were the bearers of it, in order that the secret of the internal localities might not be divulged; but at the present day it would appear that less sanguinary precautions are adopted.—*Hemad's Account of Morocco.*

Finances of Morocco.—The following statement, based on information obtained in the year 1827, at a period when Mulai Suleiman held his court in Tangier for more than two months, will show approximately what was then the amount of the revenue and expenditure of the state, subject to his dominion.

Revenue.		Dollars.
1. The <i>A'Sicura</i> , or Decima.....	450,000	
2. The <i>Nibsa</i> , or Direct Tax.....	250,000	
3. The <i>Djizla</i> , and other tributes of the Jews.....	30,000	
4. The <i>Flankets</i> , or United Tribute.....	950,000	
5. The <i>Kesh-ed-drabb</i> , or Money Tax.....	50,000	
6. The <i>A'no'id-el-gumrag</i> , or Customs Duty.....	400,000	
7. The <i>Tahkuit</i> , or Monopoly.....	25,000	
8. The <i>Kera</i> , or House Tax.....	40,000	
9. The <i>Deiat</i> , or Fiscal Dues.....	150,000	
10. The <i>Hadika</i> , or Spontaneous offerings of the natives, gifts and subsidies of the Consuls and Christian Merchants.....	225,000	
Total.....	2,600,000	
Expenditure.		Dollars.
1. Support of the Imperial Household and Harems, Appanages, Salaries, &c.....	110,000	
2. Reparation and embellishment of the imperial residences, gardens, fortresses, &c.....	65,000	
3. Regalia; Presents to Mecca, to the Sheriffs of Tafillet, to various Sanctuaries, to the Mosques, &c.....	65,000	
4. Salaries of representative Governors and Caidis, as at Tetuan, Tangier, Suira, &c.....	50,000	
5. Pay, Equipment, and Provision of the Land Forces.....	650,000	
6. Maintenance of the Naval Forces.....	30,000	
7. Salaries of Consuls in Europe, in the regencies of Barbary, and in the Levant.....	15,000	
8. Couriers, Expresses, Messengers, &c.....	5,000	
Total.....	990,000	

It is seen from the above statement, that an annual saving of more than one million six hundred thousand dollars is buried in the *Beit-ul-mell*, at Mekinez. Making allowance for the losses and expenses incident to the last four unsettled years of the reign of Mulai Suleiman, there must have accumulated in that treasure-tomb, in the thirty-four years from the period of his accession to the throne, in 1793, at least the enormous sum of fifty millions of dollars, besides what, in all probability, was found there at the time. The actual reigning monarch is also very economical, and certainly not one to suffer any diminution, either in his existing hoard, or in the annual saving of the fiscal balance, which is added to it.—*Ibid.*

ADVERTISEMENTS

UNIVERSITY of LONDON—JUNIOR SCHOOL.

HEAD MASTERS.
Thos. Hewitt Key, A.M., Professor of Latin, U. of L.
Henry Malden, A.M., Professor of Greek, U. of L.
The Half Term commences on MONDAY, the 6th June.
25th May, 1836. CHAS. M. ATKINSON, Sec.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, 1836.

TRINITY TERM EXAMINATIONS.
N.B. The Names of the Successful Candidates in each Rank are arranged, not in order of Merit, but in the order of Standing on the College Books.

SENIOR SOPHISTERS.
HONORS IN SCIENCE—Second Rank—Lewis Morgan, Malachy Hussey, Robert Chichester.

HONORS IN CLASSICS—First Rank—William Wyley.

Second Rank—Thomas Henn.

JUNIOR SOPHISTERS.

HONORS IN SCIENCE—First Rank—Mr. Charles Kelly, Henry Burke, Henry Connor, Stephen Flanagan.

Second Rank—Mr. John B. Massy, Robert Warren, Edward Owens, Thomas Sanders, Conaghan Ellis, John Doyle.

HONORS IN CLASSICS—First Rank—John Francis Walters, John Perrin, Richard Mills, William Ahern.

Second Rank—Mr. Thomas F. Turner, Mr. James L. Wise, Mr. Andrew Vance, Henry Tibbs William Newman, William Miller, John Littledale.

SENIOR FRESHMEN.

HONORS IN SCIENCE—First Rank—Mr. William Blood, James Lendrick, Matthew White, George Salmon, Francis McGillcuddy, Joseph Galbraith.

Second Rank—Conway Dobbs, Archibald Rutherford, Henry Ruckerford, Richard Moore, George Longfield, Robert Gabbett.

HONORS IN CLASSICS—First Rank—Mr. Hugh McCalmont Cairns, John Flanagan, James Byrne, Francis McGillcuddy, John William Loughlin, George Longfield, Hugh Law, George Graham.

Second Rank—Mr. James G. Rynd, Mr. Joseph Story, Mr. Richard Henry Bushe, James Lendrick, Charles Feinagle, George Thomas, James Gwynne, Lewis Gwynne.

Third Rank—Mr. John Faussett Black, Robert Benjamin Peables, John Clifton, Fossomby Moore, John Richardson, Jeremiah Murphy, Thomas Dobbey.

JUNIOR FRESHMEN.

HONORS IN SCIENCE—First Rank—Mr. Thomas Forde, Mr. Arthur Morris, William Kirkpatrick, John Henry Richards, George Lee, John Gagin, Abraham Hume.

Second Rank—Mr. Michael Wood Ryder, Hugh Wilson, Roger North, Studdart, John Edge, Michael E. Corcoran, Henry Smith, James W. Boyce, Robert Le Marchant, Edward Bagot, Richard Morris.

HONORS IN CLASSICS—First Rank—Mr. Michael W. Ryder, Mr. Daniel Kinahan, Mr. Samuel Hayman, William C. Stackpole, Charles Bickmore, William Porter, Cuthbert Collingwood.

Second Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Third Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Fourth Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Fifth Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Sixth Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Seventh Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Eighth Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Ninth Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Tenth Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Eleventh Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

Twelfth Rank—Mr. Thomas Robert Stannus, Mr. John V. Foster, James Hamilton, William Bassett, George Lee, John Walker, Nicholas John Halpin, Edward Bagot, John Gagin, George Smith, William Magee, Patrick Riordan, Frederick A. Bickmore, Francis King, David Cangle.

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